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t in Curaçao

Ned. Antillen

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

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THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Their geography, history, and
political, economic and social
development



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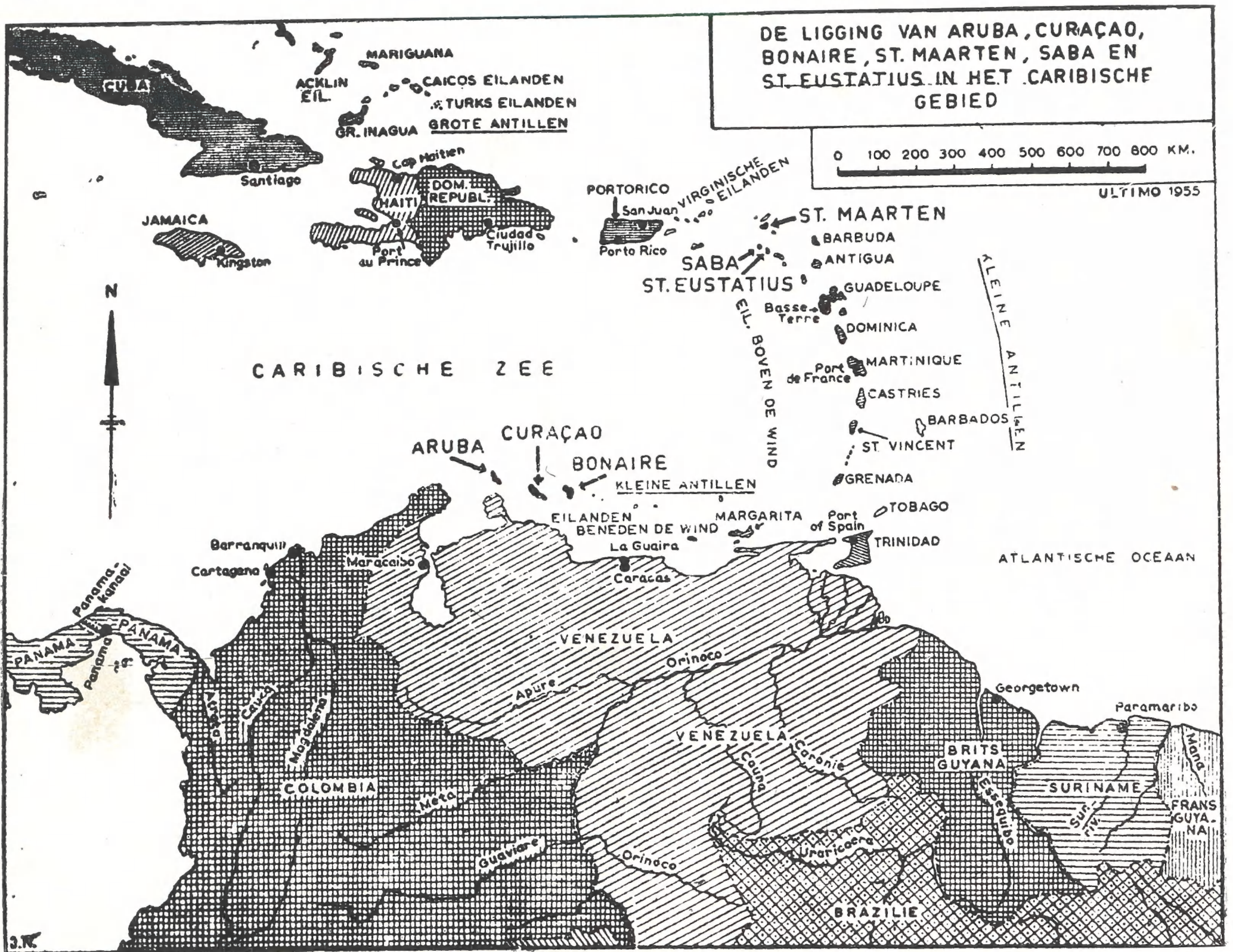
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The geographical position of the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean Sea

The territory, geography, climate, area and population of the Netherlands Antilles

THE TERRITORY

The territory of the Netherlands Antilles consists of the following island-territories:

- a) the island-territory of Aruba formed by the island of Aruba;
- b) the island-territory of Bonaire formed by the islands of Bonaire and Little Bonaire;
- c) the island-territory of Curaçao formed by the islands of Curaçao and Little-Curaçao;
- d) the island-territory of the Windward Islands formed by the islands of St. Martin (Dutch part), Saba and St. Eustatius.

The island-territories mentioned under a, b and c are also called the Leeward Islands.

THE GEOGRAPHY

The Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands both situated in the Caribbean Sea are about 550 miles apart. The Leeward Islands are approximately 15 to 38 miles from the coast of Venezuela. The Windward Islands form a part of the chain of the Lesser Antilles situated between St. Thomas in the American Virgin Islands and British Antigua.

THE CLIMATE

The Netherlands Antilles have a tropical climate and the average temperature in both the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands is between 76 and 90°F, but rainfall in the Windward Islands is nearly double that of the Leeward Islands. The average rainfall on the Leeward Islands is 22 inches per year. The rainy season in both groups of Islands is from October to February. August and September are known as the "hottest" months, January and February as the "coolest".

Variations in temperature between day and night in the Leeward Islands are larger than the annual variations. The fresh easterly trade-winds bring a welcome coolness throughout the year with an average velocity of 16 m.p.h.

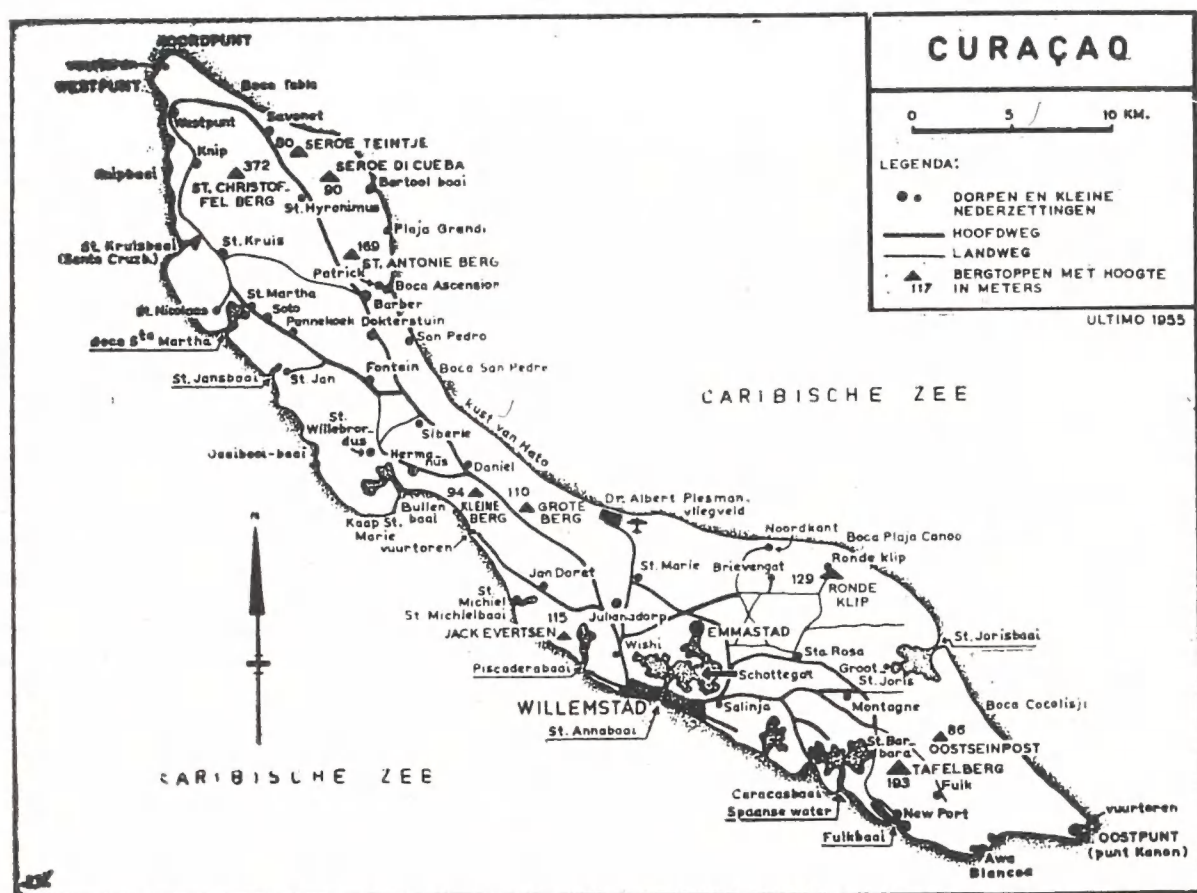
THE AREA

The total area of the Netherlands Antilles is 394.1 square miles divided between the islands as follows:

Curaçao	178.5 square miles
Bonaire	111.9 square miles
Aruba	70.9 square miles
St. Martin	16 square miles
St. Eustatius	11.8 square miles
Saba	5 square miles

Curaçao

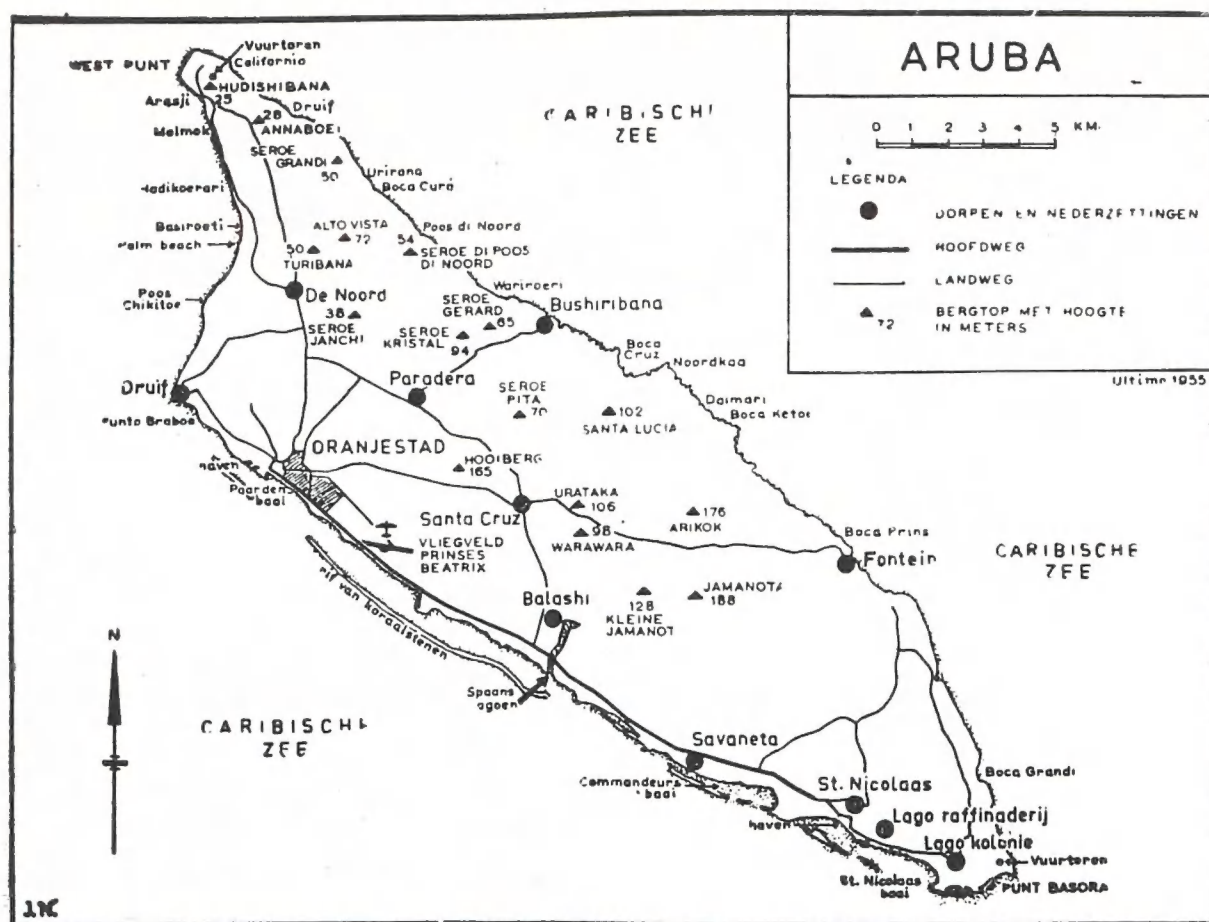
Curaçao is the largest of the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Geographically it is the middle one of the three islands of the Leeward group. It extends from north-west to south-west and is located





The pontoon bridge of Willemstad has become one of the many attractions for tourists

at 69° W and $12^{\circ} 10'$ N in the Southern part of the Caribbean. It lies 38 statute miles North of the Venezuelan coast and is 38 miles long, 7 miles broad at its widest and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles across at its narrowest. There are several bays on the southern coast the largest being the Schottegat, which is an excellent natural harbour basin right on the doorstep of Willemstad, the capital, which is the seat of the Central Government of the Netherlands Antilles. Willemstad is the 4th largest harbour in the world. It is divided into two sections, the "Punda" and the "Otrabanda", on opposite sides of the Saint Anna-Bay, connected by a pontoon bridge. The island has a volcanic base partly covered by coral reefs and has little natural vegetations other than divi-divi trees, aloes and cacti. Roughly one half of the population lives in the capital.

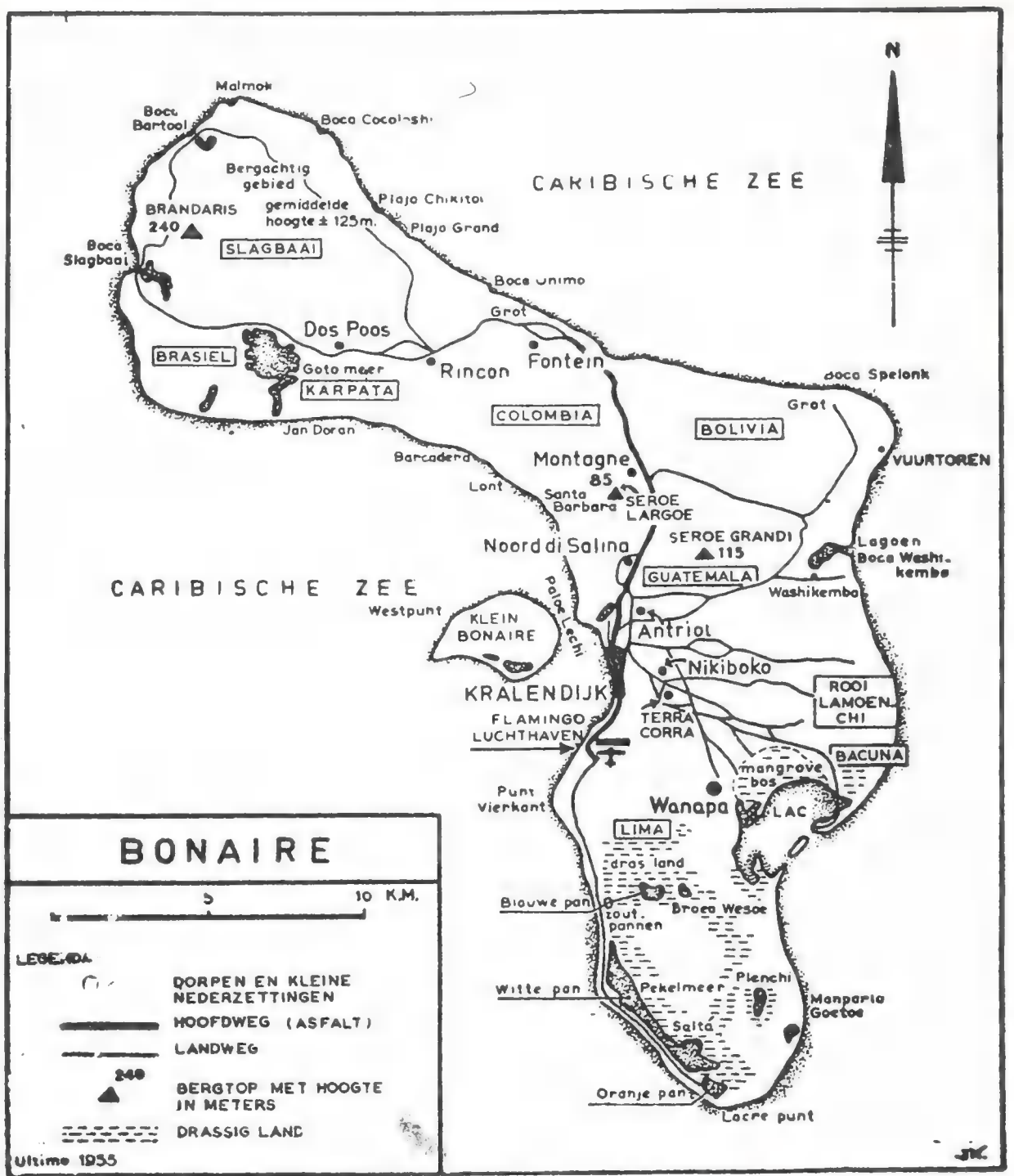


Aruba

Aruba is the most western of the Leeward group and is located at 70° W and $12^{\circ} 27'$ N in the Caribbean Sea. It lies 15 statute miles from the Venezuelan coast and is 19,6 miles long, and 6 miles at its widest point. Aruba lies 42 sea miles from Curaçao. The soil is generally rocky and has less vegetation than Curaçao. One of the island's most attractive features is its wealth of fine sand beaches, ideal for sea-bathing on the southern, wind-sheltered side. The capital, Oranjestad, has about one fifth of the total population. San Nicolas where the Lago Oil Company operates its refinery has about double the population of Oranjestad.



The flamingos of Bonaire



*Kralendijk,
the capital of Bonaire*



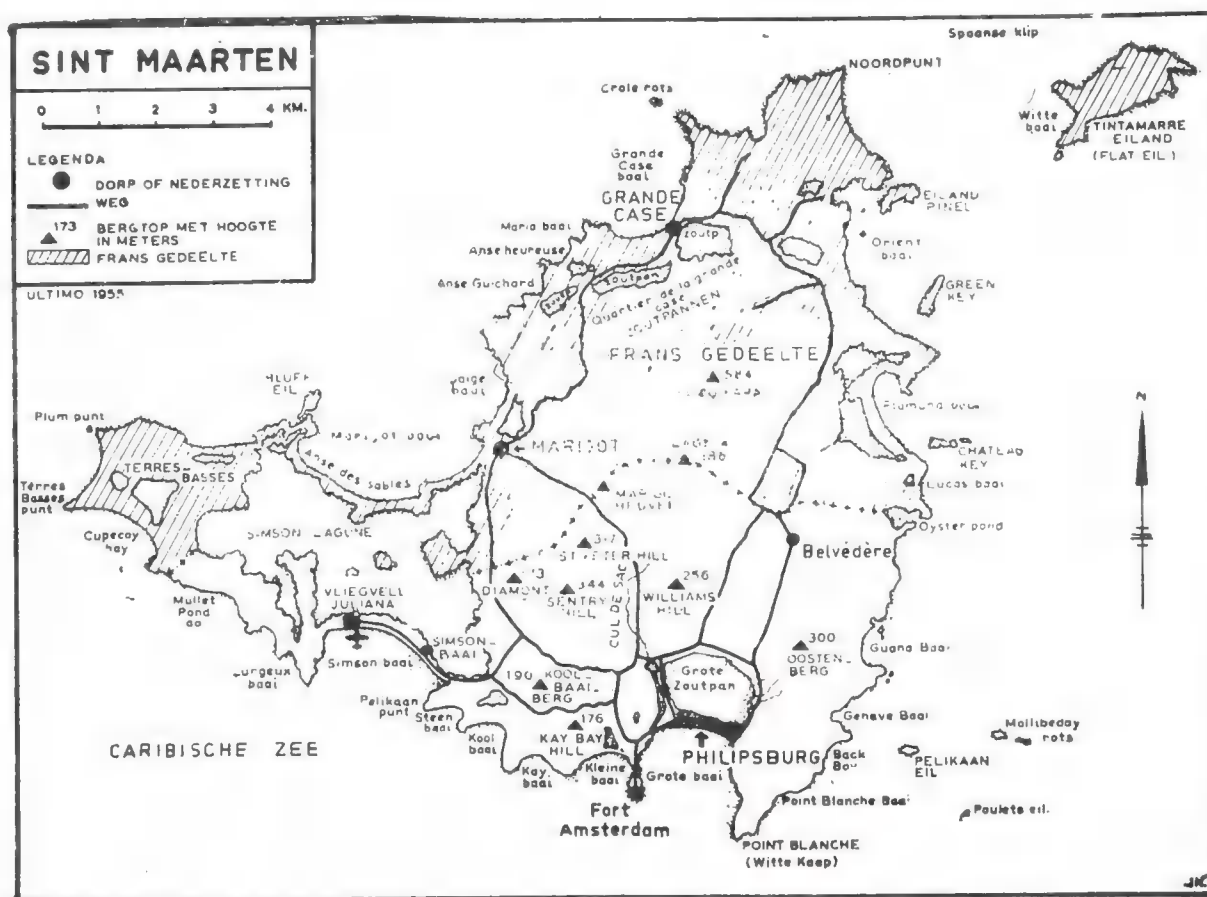
Bonaire

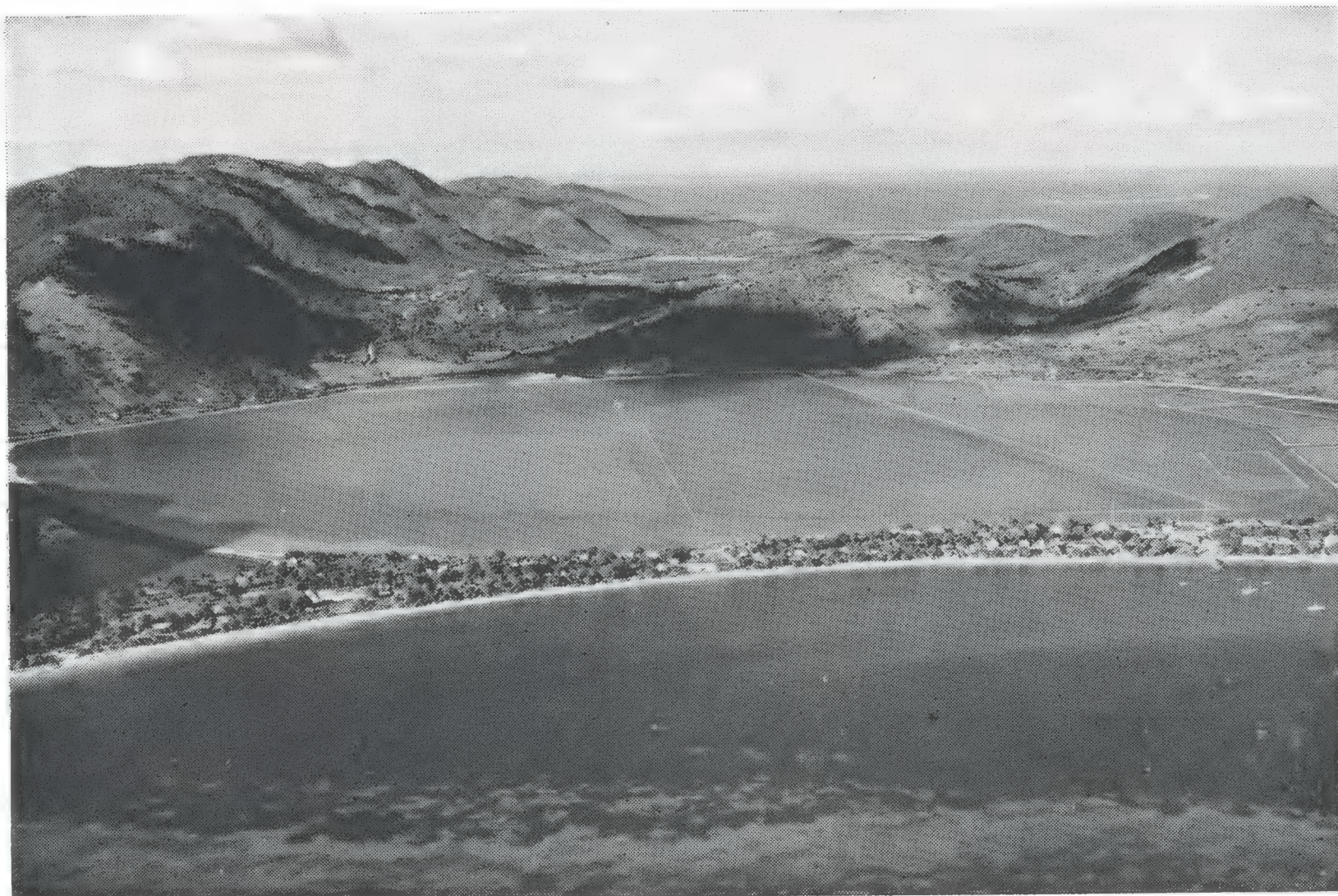
Bonaire is the second island in size but the third one in number of inhabitants of the Leeward Islands. Its capital, Kralendijk, lies about a quarter of an hour flying distance from Curaçao. There is a daily air communication with Curaçao by K.L.M. The salt ponds of Pekelmeer run along the south-western coast. The northern section is mountainous; the southern part is flat, only a few feet above sea-level.

St. Maarten

The Windward Islands are located in the northeastern corner of the Caribbean at 60° W and 18° N.

St. Martin is divided between the Netherlands Antilles and France. The northern part is French. According to a legend, the border dispute between France and Holland in 1648 was settled by letting a citizen of each country walk around the island in opposite directions. The territory covered by each man then became the property of their respective countries. The Frenchman covered more ground but the Dutchman had the good fortune to walk around the then valuable salt ponds. In 1948 a simple monument commemorating the three hundred years of friendly relation between the two parts of the island was erected at the border line, on the road from Philipsburg to Marigot, the



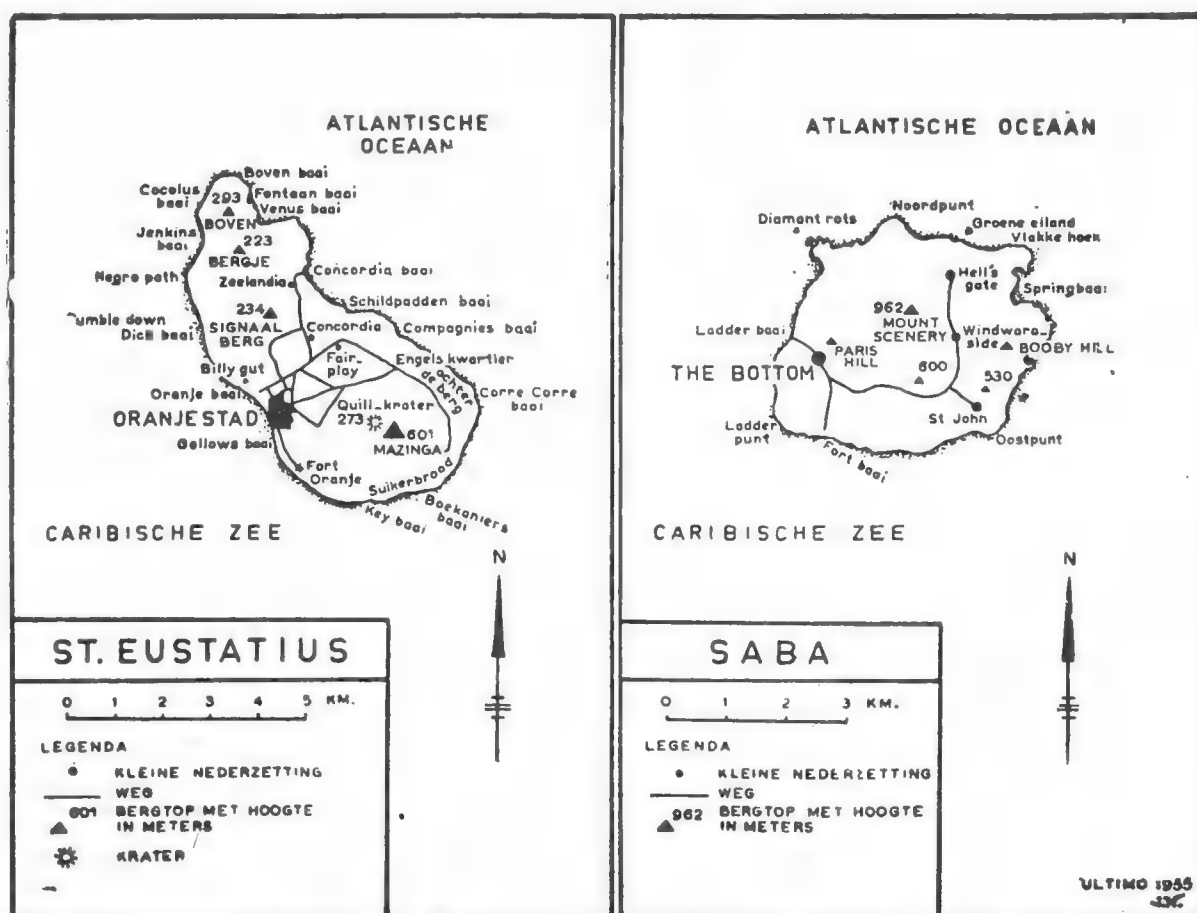


Philipsburg, the capital of St. Martin

capital of the French territory. The frontier is crossed without formalities; there are no border guards or customs inspectors. The island lies 100 statute miles east of the Virgin Islands and has the best anchorage of the three Windward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles. Philipsburg, the capital, is built on a narrow sand bar at the end of the "Great Bay", which forms a natural harbour. There are regular air connections with Puerto Rico, Curaçao, St. Kitts and Guadeloupe. The island is hilly, and has a pleasant vegetation.

St. Eustatius

It is the most rustic of the Windward Islands. The steep, rocky soil presents tremendous obstacles to farmers and stock raisers. Its principal town is Oranjestad, sharing the name of Aruba's capital. During the American Revolution, "Statia" as most Caribbeans know it, served as a point of transshipment for food, arms and clothing, destined for the blockaded colonies. On some days as many as 200 ships crowded Statia's harbours. Plantations produced tobacco, sugar cane, and other crops.



Saba

It is actually an extinct volcano rising from the sea in a broken cone to a height of 2.900 feet. Within the crater walls the vegetation is deep green with garden patches and fruit groves. The Bottom, the principal town, lies about 800 feet above the sea-level and has half of the total population. A little higher than the Bottom lie the villages of Saint John, Windwardside (1800 feet above the sea-level) and Hellsgate.

	Population on January 1, 1959	Population on January 1, 1960
Curaçao	126,103	127,840
Aruba	58,486	58,868
Bonaire	5,775	5,755
St. Martin (Neth. part.)	1,537	1,537
St. Eustatius	1,070	1,016
Saba	1,085	1,094
Total population	194,056	196,110

In 20 years' time the population has increased with more than 110%. In 1957 the birth-rate amounted to 35 per 1000 and the death-rate to 6 per 1000.

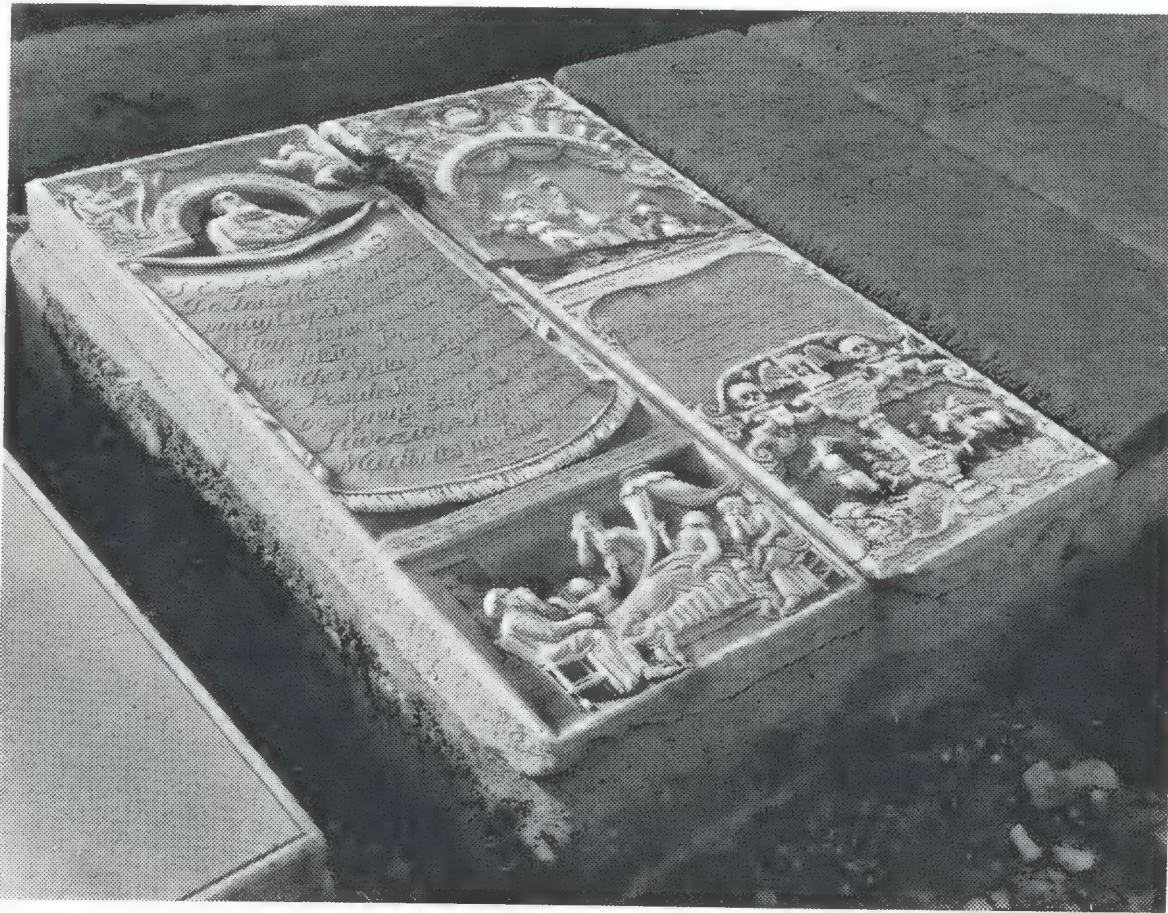
*"Statia", as most
Caribbeans know it*



Due to the industrialisation of Curaçao and Aruba a great many workers had to be recruited from Surinam, the British West Indian islands, Madeira, Colombia, Venezuela and other countries. The population therefore consists of an important number of foreigners. Foreigners are also found in business. No less than forty-five different nations are represented among the inhabitants.

Saba the smallest island of the Netherlands Windward group





*Old Jewish tomb-stone
in Curaçao*

As the Government is stimulating the development of a skilled labour force, a great many of foreign workers have been replaced in recent years by local workers. The great majority of the workers are now recruited locally.

European Dutchmen are chiefly employed by the oil industry in Curaçao, the Government and some other private concerns and Americans are chiefly employed by the Lago Oil Company in Aruba.

Dutch is the official language but in addition a "lingua franca", Papiamentu, has evolved from Spanish, Dutch and some other languages. It is spoken by the people of the Leeward Islands. Spanish is also spoken in the Leeward Islands.

The general language in the Windward Islands is English.

The Antillians distinguish themselves for their great aptitude in learning foreign languages.

The majority of the population in the Leeward Islands is Roman Catholic, while on the Windward Island the majority is Protestant.

Besides the Roman Catholic Church and several Protestant denominations there are two Jewish congregations in Curaçao.

History, political evolution and government

History

The islands of the Netherlands Antilles were first discovered by the Spaniards. Curaçao was presumably discovered by Alonso de Ojeda who made an exploratory voyage under the auspices of the Spanish King, Charles V, and with the cooperation of Américo Vespucci. But it was not until 1527 that Juan de Ampués took possession of Curaçao and the two Leeward Islands, Aruba and Bonaire. During the next centuries the Netherlands Antilles changed several times from the hands of one colonial power into those of another. In 1816 it definitely became a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, when according to the Convention of London of August 13th, 1814, confirmed at the peace of Paris of November 20, 1815, it was returned by England to the Netherlands together with the other Dutch colonies, except Berbice, Demerara, Essequibo and the Cape of Good Hope.

It is perhaps worthwhile mentioning the historical fact that in 1776 Fort Orange at St. Eustatius (at that time known as the "Golden Rock") gave the first salute by a foreign nation to the flag of the United States, flying from the brig "Andrew Doria". This historical event is commemorated by a bronze plaque presented by the late President F. D. Roosevelt in 1939.

POLITICAL EVOLUTION

Until World War II the political relationship to the Netherlands was no other than that of a colony. During the greater part of this war, when the Netherlands were occupied by Germany and when afterwards Indonesia (at that time still known as the Netherlands East Indies) which was then a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was seized by Japan, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam were the only free parts of the Kingdom. So they had to act much more on their own than under ordinary circumstances and became used to that situation. In the Netherlands Antilles as well as in Surinam the conviction, that the colonial system had to be ended as soon as this was



The statue of H. M. Queen Juliana in Curaçao

possible, grew stronger and stronger. They wanted to be "master in their own house". They wanted to enter into a new relationship with the Netherlands based on the principles put forward by H.M. Queen Wilhelmina in Her famous broadcast declaration of December 7th, 1942. The speech pledged the Netherlands to confer upon the populations of the overseas territories at the end of the war a greater independence and a greater share in the administration, and to call a Round Table Conference for this purpose as soon as practicable after the armistice. The following was one of the most important passages in the Queen's speech:

"I am convinced, and history as well as reports from the occupied territories confirm me in this, that after the war it will be possible to reconstruct the Kingdom on the solid foundation of complete partnership, which will mean the consummation of all that has been developed in the past. I know that no political unity nor national cohesion can continue to exist, if not supported by the voluntary acceptance and the faith of the great majority of the citizenry."

In 1946, after the liberation of the Netherlands, the Legislative Councils (the Staten) of the Netherlands Antilles (then still named Curaçao) and Surinam sent a joint mission to the Netherlands Government to make known the wishes of these territories with regard to a new constitutional order. The Netherlands Government promised to go as far as possible towards granting self-government to these parts of the Kingdom as the Netherlands Constitution then permitted and also to change this Constitution so as to make full selfgovernment possible.

The first practical results were achieved in 1948 when the Constitutions of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam were changed. The most important changes were: the introducing of general franchise for men and women, the abolishing of the system of appointment by the Governor of a certain number of the members of the Legislative Council, and the enlargement of this Council from 15 to 21 members, all to be elected by the people.

In 1948 the Constitution of the Netherlands was revised so as to open the way for the establishment of a new constitutional order between the territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In January 1948 a

Round Table Conference was held at The Hague, between representatives of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The results was the unanimous adoption of seventeen resolutions under which the existing relations between the three parts of the Kingdom were to be replaced by a new constitutional order, uniting these areas in a new "Kingdom of the Netherlands" under the House of Orange Nassau; it was also decided that a new overall-charter should be worked out to delineate the precise structure of the new-styled Kingdom. The principles adopted by the Conference were laid down shortly afterwards in the Netherlands Constitution by the above mentioned revision of 1948. A new Chapter, containing transitory provisions, was inserted in the Constitution of the Netherlands. According to one of these provisions a new constitutional order based upon the results of the consultations held and to be held with and between the representatives of the peoples had to be established with respect to the territories concerned, in pursuance whereof these territories would, autonomously, have charge of their own affairs, and would as united, co-equal partners, foster their common interests and assist each other, all of these conditions to be fulfilled under guarantee of the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedoms and sound government. Another of these provisions stipulated that the new constitutional order had to be established by its voluntary acceptance through democratic procedure in each of the territories. Finally, the new Chapter made it possible to depart from the provisions of the Constitution to such an extent as the change-over to the new constitutional order might require, without the lengthy procedure involved in amending the Netherlands Constitution.

As at that time the Indonesian question had not yet been settled and neither the Netherlands Antilles nor Surinam wished to wait until the Netherlands would come to a final agreement with Indonesia, it was decided to create a so-called "Interim Order" of Government, which was to meet the principal wishes of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The "Interim Order" for the Netherlands Antilles became effective on February 7th, 1951. This "Interim Order" practically granted full autonomy to the Netherlands Antilles. For instance the Netherlands Antilles would manage their own internal affairs. For this mana-



The Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles E. Jonckheer signing the Charter in the "Ridderzaal (Knights' Hall) at the Hague in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Juliana and His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard

gement the parliamentary system was introduced with politically fully responsible ministers, while the Governor (besides being the representative of the Government of the Kingdom with regard to non-internal affairs) became the constitutional head of the Area Government. All internal legislation became completely free from Dutch influence. A limited list of affairs ranking as non-internal nature was agreed upon, the most important of these being Defense and Foreign Affairs. With the object of enabling the Netherlands Antilles to put forward their interests in matters which equally concern the Netherlands and Surinam, they were empowered to appoint General Representatives in the Netherlands. The membership of the Legislative Council was increased to 22 members.

After the Indonesian question had been settled, the new Constitutional order according to the Netherlands Constitution could be realized. The new Charter that had to be worked out in collaboration between the three parties would recognize the co-equality with the Netherlands of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. The new Charter was debated and settled in a series of conferences which started in 1952. Between the delegations of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam an agreement on the new Charter was reached in June 1954. Then followed the three parliaments' separate debates on the new order, their bill of ratification and finally, its official promulgation on December 15th, 1954 by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands at a ceremonial assembly of the two Houses of the Netherlands Parliament with delegations of the Legislative Councils of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam present. Fourteen days later, on December 29th, 1954, the reorganisation of the Netherlands Kingdom, consisting henceforth of three coequal partners, became a fact. December 15th has been proclaimed in the whole Kingdom as Kingdom Day and is an official holiday in the Netherlands Antilles. The Charter in which the new constitutional order is laid down is officially named the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The preamble to the Charter reads as follows:

"The Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles, considering that they have expressed freely their will to establish a new constitutional order in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in which they will conduct their internal affairs autonomously and their common interest on a basis of equality, and in which they will accord each other reciprocal assistance, have resolved by mutual consent to establish the Charter for the Kingdom as follows..."

The new Kingdom is characterized by the principle that each of the Countries administers its internal affairs autonomously and that the three Countries are committed, on a basis of equality, to the administration of their common interests and to mutual assistance. Therefore, the Countries themselves have the right to determine their own Constitutions. This includes the right to revise and amend them, subject only to the condition that they do not impair the interests and the general principles (human rights and fundamental freedoms) common to the Kingdom as a whole.

Wij, Juliana,

bij de Gratie Gods,
Koningin der Nederlanden,
Prinses van Oranje-Nassau,
enz., enz., enz.,

Op hedende vijftiende December negentienhonderd vier en vijftig, in plechtige bijeenkomst in de Ridderzaal te 's-Gravenhage;

Gelet op artikel 218 van de Grondwet en op artikel 61 van het Statuut voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden;

Overwegende,

dat een nieuwe rechtsorde voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden is neergelegd in een Statuut, dat is opgesteld door de uit vertegenwoordigers der bevolkingen van Nederland, Suriname en de Nederlandse Antillen samengestelde Conferentie Nederland-Suriname-Nederlandse Antillen;

dat het Statuut voor het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden vrijwillig langs democratische weg is aanvaard;



The Declaration ("Statuut"), signed by H. M. Queen Juliana, that the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam form autonomous parts in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

A number of matters which are of equal concern to all parts of the Kingdom and require therefore to be administered in a uniform manner by organs of the Kingdom, are described in the Charter as "Kingdom Affairs". The most important of these are again Defence (although military service is a matter of concern for each individual country) and

Foreign relations (although the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam have far-reaching powers which in some instances amount to a veto). "Kingdom Affairs" are the only instances, in which the three Countries have no exclusive authority. Apart from these, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam have complete autonomy.

The provisions of the Charter determine the manner in which Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles shall share the responsibility for Kingdom Affairs within the organs in the Netherlands charged with the conduct of these matters. The organs in which they are represented are the Council of Ministers, the Council of State, and the States-General (consisting of a First and a Second Chamber). If requested by the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam provision may also be made to add to the Supreme Court a member, an extraordinary member or an advisory member.

The highest organ of the Kingdom is the Sovereign. Owing to the Sovereign's inability to exercise His (Her) power in Surinam and in the Netherlands Antilles in person, a Governor is appointed by the Sovereign to act as His (Her) representative in these Countries.

The Governor has a dual responsibility: on the one hand he is the representative of the Queen as (constitutional) Head of the Kingdom; on the other hand he is the representative of the Queen as Head of the Government of the Country concerned.

The Government of each Country consists of the Governor, and the Council of Ministers. The latter function of the Governor, representing the Sovereign as Head of the Government of the Country concerned, is considered the more important one.

Consequently, his powers and duties as such are not determined by Kingdom Statute, but by Country Legislation. The Governor is inviolable with regard to the conduct of affairs by the Government and his position vis-a-vis the members of the Council of Ministers is therefore similar to the relationship existing in the Netherlands between the Queen and Her ministers. The ministers are responsible for their policies to the Legislative Council.

Whenever the Council of Ministers of the Netherlands is dealing with "Kingdom Affairs", the Council assumes the status of Council of Ministers for the Kingdom. In that event the Ministers Plenipotentiary,



All men and women of Dutch Nationality, who have reached the age of 23 years and who live in the Netherlands Antilles can vote. This ballot is secret

appointed by the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, are present and participate with full voting power in the deliberations of the Council.

With regard to draft-Statutes applying to the whole, the Charter stipulates that the draft is simultaneously presented to the States-General and the Legislative Councils of the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. These Councils discuss the draft and submit their observations. During the discussions in the States-General, the Ministers Plenipotentiary and – if the Legislative Councils of Surinam and of the Netherlands Antilles take a decision to that effect – one or more special delegates of these bodies are enabled to attend the debates in both Chambers, to furnish information and to propose amendments. Both the Ministers Plenipotentiary and the special delegates can also propose postponement for the purpose of further consideration. If, after the Ministers Plenipotentiary or the special delegates having voiced opposition to the draft, the Second Chamber adopts it with a majority of less than three-fifths of the number of votes cast, the discussion must be suspended and further consultations on the proposal take place in the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom.

The third Chapter of the Charter is devoted to mutual aid, consultation and co-operation between the three Countries. The partnership of the Netherlands, Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles within one Kingdom implies that the Countries accord each other aid and assistance in many respects, materially and spiritually.

Of course the Charter in its present form may not prove satisfactory for all time to come. Future developments may give rise to a call for certain amendments. With this possibility in mind, it was therefore provided for indications regarding the procedure to be followed in such eventuality. Amendments can be affected only – and this is laid down as a point of principle – in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants of the three Countries, and the form of amendment must be enacted by Kingdom Statute. The relevant legislation cannot become effective, however, prior to voluntary acceptance by the three Countries. This means that no amendment can be operated by or in any one of the Countries singly, nor can any one of them alter the constitutional order unilaterally.



Minister-President E. Jonckheer speaks every year in front of the Autonomy-Monument in Willemstad at the commemoration of Kingdom's Day

GOVERNMENT

The Netherlands Antilles form an autonomous part within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and are united, on a basis of equality, with the Netherlands and Surinam. The Constitution of the Netherlands Antilles after having been made consistent with the new constitutional order was promulgated in April 1955. This Constitution, named "Staatsregeling van de Nederlandse Antillen", has the status of a domestic legislative regulation.

As pointed out already the Queen is Head of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and is represented by a Governor appointed by Her. The central executive power of the Netherlands Antilles rests with the Governor and the Council of Ministers, both forming together the Government of the Country. The ministers who are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Legislative Council, are responsible for their policy to this Council.

The central legislative power is vested in the Government and Legislative Council, the latter – called the "Staten". (States) – consisting of



The Autonomy-Monument was inaugurated on the occasion of the first anniversary of the autonomy of the Antilles

only one Chamber. The "Staten" consists of 22 deputies, who are elected directly according to an electoral system based on universal suffrage. In the island territories of Curaçao and Aruba the election takes place on the base of equal representation which means that each party secures a number of seats, in equal proportion to the percentage of votes brought out in their favour throughout the island territory. In Bonaire and the Windward Islands the single seat goes to the party for which the majority of votes are cast. The 22 deputies are elected as follows: In the island-territory of Curaçao: 12 deputies; in the island-territory of Aruba: 8 deputies; in the island-territory of Bonaire:

1 deputy and in the island-territory of the Windward Islands: 1 deputy. Members of the "Staten" must be Netherlands and may be men or women. All those of Dutch nationality who have reached the age of 23 years and are resident within the Netherlands Antilles have the franchise. Criminals, the mentally unfit and certain others are disqualified; for certain crimes and misdemeanours there may be temporary disqualification. The members of the "Staten" are elected for 4 years. The Governor has the power to dissolve the "Staten", subject to the condition that new elections take place within two months, and the new "Staten" be convoked to meet within 3 months.

The Governor and the "Staten" may propose new bills. The "Staten" has the right of amending bills proposed by the Governor. It has furthermore the right of inquiry and interpellation.

The meeting of the "Staten" is public, though it may by a majority vote decide on a secret meeting. The ministers may attend the meeting of the "Staten", but only in an advisory capacity, as a member of the "Staten" cannot be simultaneously a minister. Every year on the second Tuesday in May the session of the "Staten" is ceremoniously open-

The "Antillenhuis" at The Hague, office of the Minister-Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles



ed by the Governor. In the Speech then made by the Governor, the Government announces its projects for the coming sessional year. Every act of the Governor with regard to internal affairs has to be covered by a responsible minister.

Governor (as from April 24, 1957) is Dr. A. B. Speekenbrink.

The Council of Ministers is composed as follows:

Minister-Prime – Minister for General Affairs and Minister of Traffic and Transportation a.i.: E. Jonckheer (Curaçao Democratic Party),
Minister of Justice: R. J. Isa (Curaçao Democratic Party),
Deputy Minister-President and Minister of Social Affairs and Economic Affairs: C. D. Kroon (Curaçao Democratic Party),
Minister of Finance and Welfare Affairs: J. E. Yrausquin (Aruba Patriotic Party),
Minister of Education: F. B. Tromp (Aruba National Union)
Minister of Culture and Public Health: Dr. I. C. Debrot
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands Antilles in the Netherlands: W. F. M. Lampe.

The "Staten" as constituted at present:

Curaçao:

1. Democratic Party – 6 seats (Government party).
2. Combination National People's Party/Curaçao Independent Party – 5 seats (opposition).
3. Constructive People's Party – 1 seat (Government party).

Aruba:

1. Aruba Patriotic Party – 5 seats (Government party).
2. Aruba People's Party – 2 seats (opposition).
3. Aruba National Union – 1 seat (Government party).

Bonaire:

Democratic Party of Bonaire – 1 seat (Government party).

Windward Islands:

Windward Islands Progressive Party – 1 seat (opposition).



The Governor inaugurates a new session of the Legislative Council (the "Staten")

According to the votes brought out in the local councils-election of 1959 the largest parties in Curaçao and in Aruba are respectively the Democratic Party/Constructive People's Party combination and the Aruba Patriotic Party/Aruba National Union combination.

The Advisory Council – Raad van Advies – appointed and presided over by the Governor, is composed of a deputy chairman and at least four other members and is consulted on all legislative matters. Generally the Council is presided over by the deputy chairman. The Council may also be asked for advice by the Governor on all matters of common or special interest. Finally, it has the authority to make recommendations to the Governor concerning matters of general interest for the Kingdom or for the Netherlands Antilles.

The *Judiciary* in the Netherlands Antilles is independent. The highest judicial body is the Court of Justice; its principal task is to ensure proper application of the law. It also acts as Court of Appeal. Lower judicial bodies are the Courts in First Instance (Cantonal Courts). These Courts consist of a single judge, while the Court of Justice consists of 5 judges. All judges are appointed for life by the Queen. At the age of 60 years they have to retire.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Netherlands Antilles consist of four island-territories. Each island-territory has its own representative body, the Island Council. The members are elected for 4 years, directly from the Netherlands inhabitants of the island-territory who are 23 years of age. The electoral register is the same as for the "Staten", the central Legislative Council. The number of members varies. The island Councils of Curaçao and Aruba consist of 21 members; the Island Council of Bonaire consist of 9 members and the Island Council of the Windward Islands consists of 15 members (each of the islands St. Martin, Saba, and St. Eustatius electing 5 members).

The Island Council has the right to issue by-laws concerning local affairs. Each island-territory is autonomous with regard to its communal interests.



The Court of Justice in session

The "Island Ordinance" of 1951 specifies what does not belong to the autonomous authority of the island-territories. For instance the legislation regardingc ertain types of taxes, matters concerning the police force, the postal organisation, banking, the monetary system, etc. etc.

The Island Council elects the Deputies who together with the "Gezaghebber" (Lieutenant Governor) form the Executive Council of the island-territory. This Executive Body is named "Bestuurscollege". The Executive Council of the island-territory is charged with the day-to-day administration and the enforcement of law.

The "Gezaghebber" (Lieutenant Governor) is appointed by the Queen for 6 years.

He presides over the Island Coucil in an advisory capacity but as president of the local Executive Council he has a deciding vote. In maintaining public order, the "Gezaghebber" acts as the chief of police.

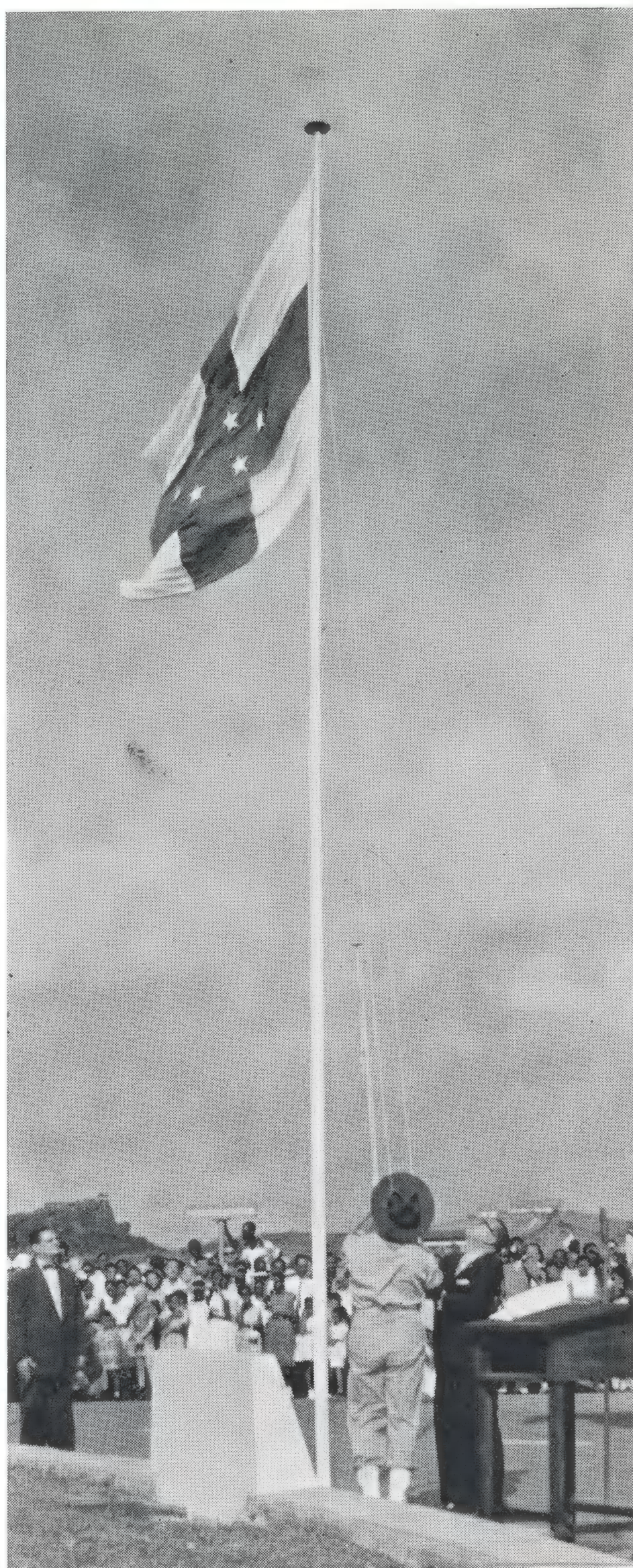
The flag of the Netherlands Antilles

On December 15th, 1959, the Minister-President of the Netherlands Antilles, E. Jonckheer, hoisted the Antillean flag for the first time. This was on the day that the Netherlands Antilles celebrated the first lustrum of the establishment of the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The flag of the Netherlands Antilles is right-angled, consisting of a white background, with a vertical red stripe in the middle of the length and a horizontal blue stripe, crossing the red one, in the middle of the height. The width of the stripes amounts to one third of the total height of the flag.

The blue stripe is furnished with six white pentagonal stars in the centre, which lay ovally with respect to each other. The dimensions of the height and length of the flag are in the proportion of two to three. The colours which appear in the Antillean flag are red, white and blue. The red colour is bright vermillion and the blue colour is cobalt-blue.

The flag of the Netherlands Antilles is hoisted for the first time on December 15th 1959 by Minister-President E. Jonckheer in front of the Autonomy-Monument



The economic structure

The sources of existence are:

INDUSTRY

The oil-refining industry

The main source the prosperity of the Netherlands Antilles is based on is the refining of oil in Curaçao by the Shell Curaçao, a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell C-group and in Aruba by the Lago Oil and Transport Co., a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey. It may be said, that the history of the economic development of both these islands is in fact the history of these two refineries. Established respectively in 1916 and in 1929 the Shell Curaçao and the LAGO

An Alkylate Unit of the Shell Curaçao refinery



*At one of the gates
giving entrance to the
refinery
of the Shell Curaçao*



today are among the largest refineries in the world. The crude oil refined at these refineries is chiefly obtained from Venezuela, although the Curaçao refinery also obtains a small amount from Colombia. In large tankers the crude oil is transported to Aruba and Curaçao. On January 1st, 1960 8,122 labourers were employed by the Shell Curaçao and the crude-oil transporting company, the Curaçao Shipping Company (C.S.M.). On the same date the Lago Oil and Transport Co. had on its payrolls 5,314 labourers. This means that about 30 % of the labour force in Curaçao and 40 % of that in Aruba are directly employed in the oil industry.

In 1959 the Shell Curaçao/C.S.M. paid for wages, local purchases, contract works etc. a sum of NA fl. 76,000,000 (about \$ 40,000,000). In the same year the Aruba refinery paid NA fl. 49,865,000 (about, \$ 21000,000) in wages, local purchases, contract works, etc.

The petroleum imports and exports were in 1959:

Imports

Aruba	158.000.000 barrels
Curaçao	19.300.000 (in 1000 kg gross)

Exports

Aruba	153.000.000 barrels
Curaçao	17.000.000 (in 1000 kg gross)

Though LAGO normally operates on the basis of an output of about 400,000 barrels a day, it has a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day. The Shell Curaçao has a daily output of about 260,000 barrels crude oil. The main products are: aviation gasoline and aviation motor gasoline; turbine fuel; gasoil/dieselfuel; fuel oil; lubrication oil and bitumen. All these refineries have extensive bunkering facilities for a large number of freight and tourist ships.

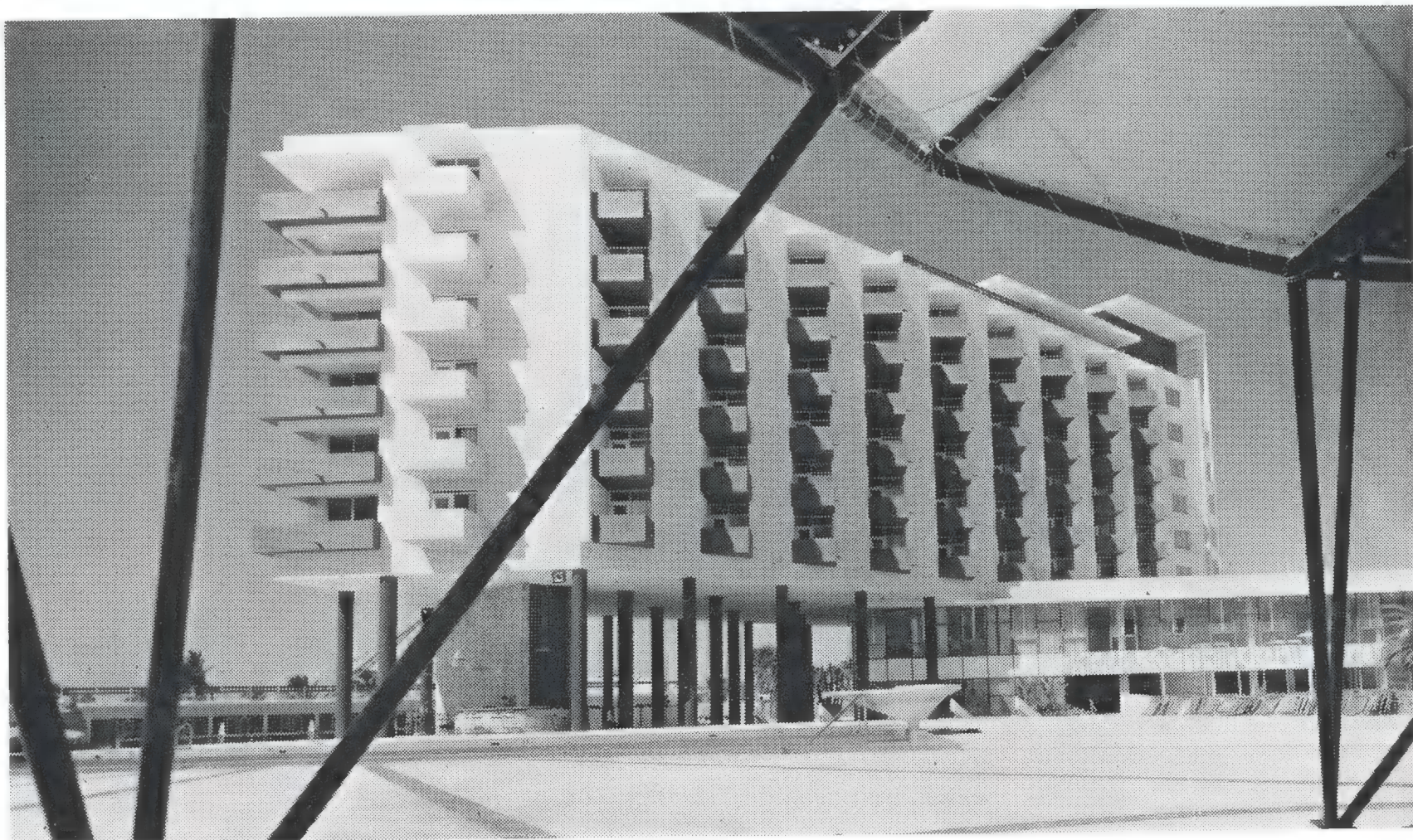
Many other small enterprises in Aruba and Curaçao are largely dependent upon the oil refinery industry.

Due to the presence of the oil refineries in Aruba and Curaçao the standard of living in the Netherlands Antilles is higher than anywhere else in the Caribbean area.

Although this industry brought prosperity for the population of Curaçao and Aruba, it is evident that the base of this prosperity cannot be considered very ample. This dependence on only a single industry led the Central Government as well as the Island Governments of Curaçao and Aruba to do all that is possible to attract more industries by granting tax-holidays and by establishing free trade zones on both islands. The



*At the background the
"Waaigat" an inner-bay of
Willemstad with the Head
Postoffice at the right*



The Aruba Caribbean Hotel in Aruba

"tax-climate" in the Netherlands Antilles was therefore made one of the mildest ones of the world.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES

Shipbuilding and repairing

Curaçao has two docks that can be classified as being among the best equipped in the Caribbean area. A great many ships are repaired in Curaçao every year. Shipbuilding is limited to the construction of small craft.

Clothing factory

In Bonaire there is a small clothing factory that provides work for several hundreds of girls.

Chocolate factory

Curaçao has a chocolate factory, "Icasa Chocolade Fabriek N.V.", engaged in the manufacture of bonbons, caramels, etc.



Venezuelan fishingboats supply fresh fish in the Aruba harbor Oranjestad

Beer Brewery

The beer brewery "De Antilliaanse Bierbrouwerij N.V.", which is related to the Dutch "Amstelbrouwerijen" was established in Curaçao in 1960.

Tobacco Industry

Since October 1960 the Netherlands Antilles produce their own cigarette, "Antillana" made by a subdivision of "A. D. Jonckheer N.V.". The factory is located in Curaçao, and the tobacco used is imported from the United States.

Other local industries include: woodworking, building, printing, liquor distilling, the preparation and bottling of non-alcoholic beverages. There is a drum factory, and several furniture works. Soon to be



The interest in the cultivation of aloë for pharmaceutical products is now growing again in Aruba and Bonaire

opened are a paint factory, and also a packing plant, which will open the way for the establishment of a canning industry.

TOURIST-TRADE

On all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles endeavors are being made to extend the tourist trade. In Curaçao a large, modern hotel, the "Hotel Curaçao Intercontinental" was built at a cost of about US \$ 2,750,000 with American and Antillian capital. Opened in 1957, it is entirely airconditioned, and has 124 rooms, each with a beautiful view of the blue Caribbean. It has a casino and a large swimming pool. These attractions, added to its unusual location within the walls of the historic "Waterfort", make it one of the most appealing hotels in the Caribbean area.

In Aruba another new luxury hotel, "Aruba Caribbean Hotel", was built in 1959. As is the case with "Hotel Curaçao Intercontinental", this hotel is a joint government-private enterprise venture. It cost about US \$ 3,000,000 to build, is completely airconditioned, and has 120 rooms and 6 luxury suites. It also has a casino and a beautiful swimming pool. Overlooking the smooth and sparkling sand of Palm Beach it offers unparalleled opportunities for vacation fun to its guests. In St. Martin (Netherlands Antillian part) a hotel, named "Little Bay Hotel", was completed in 1955. Another hotel is now under construction.

The "Flamingo Beach Club" (formerly "Zeebad Hotel") in Bonaire, situated on beautiful Kralendijk Bay, was modernized in 1955. Curaçao and Aruba offer outstanding shopping values because of the extremely low import duties on luxury items. For the tourist these islands have become the exotic bargain center of the Caribbean.

MINING

Phosphate in Curaçao is the only important natural product of the Netherlands Antilles. It is mined at St. Barbara by the Curaçao Mining Corporation, an English and Dutch Corporation. In 1959 Curaçao's phosphate export to the United States amounted to about 96,615



The first crop of the new "Hydroponics Farm" on Aruba was gathered by H.R.H. Princess Beatrix during her visit to the Netherlands Antilles

long tons (of 2,240 pounds). The production of crushed limestone for local consumption amounted to about 28,653 cubic meters. Salt is gained from the saltpans in Bonaire.

FISHING

About 400 native fishing boats of the smallest type are employed in fishing but the supply is insufficient for the local market. Fresh fish is also supplied by Venezuelan fishing boats. A considerable amount of fish and fishproducts is imported in the Netherlands Antilles. One result of the establishment of a packing plant in Curaçao will be that the island will be able to supply a fish canning factory, for the establishment of which negotiations are now under way.

AGRICULTURE X

Because of the rocky soil in Aruba and Curaçao agriculture is nearly absent on these islands. On the other islands agriculture is done on a small scale. Aruba and Bonaire are producing a product of world reputation, named aloe. This product gives the aloe resin, that is exported to be refined in pharmaceutical enterprises. A well known product of Curaçao that is exported is orange peel. On the Windward-Islands sweet potatoes and yams are grown. On all islands small quantities of assorted vegetables are produced.

Most of the food is imported.

In Aruba a new type of farming has been introduced known as the hydroponics farm. The construction of this farm was completed in 1957. Products of this farm are exported to the U.S.A.

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade in the Netherlands Antilles is dominated by petroleum shipments.

In fact about 87 % of the country's total imports in 1959 was crude petroleum. The export of petroleum refinery products in 1959 amounted to about 99 % of total export.

The following index gives a survey of the principal countries with which the Netherlands Antilles trade:

<i>Countries of Origin</i>	Import (1958) Value in million of N.A. guilders	Import (1959)
Venezuela	1174	1103
United States	146	112
Columbia	54	1
United Kingdom	81	51
The Netherlands	87	58
Trinidad	29	25
Germany (W.)	8	8
Rest of the world	114	105
Total	1693	1464



The skyline from Fort Nassau is like a fairy-tale

<i>Countries of Destination</i>	Export (1958) Value in million of N.A. guilders	Export (1959)
United States	526	483
United Kingdom	149	114
Brazil	110	89
Argentina	66	40
Canada	78	93
The Netherlands	44	39
Cuba		16
Panama and Canal Zone	32	27
Rest of the world	517	441
Total	1522	1342

SHIPPING

The Netherlands Antilles' geographic advantage of being at a junction of trade routes in the Caribbean Sea made Curaçao and Aruba the largest bunkering ports on this side of the world. The bunkering facilities serve a large number of tourist and other kinds of ships.

Curaçao and Aruba are among the largest ports of the world in terms of total tonnage. The most modern post-equipment guarantees the loading and discharge of ocean-going vessels in record time.

Willemstad is the principal seaport and customs port of Curaçao. Its

*The modern harbor
complex at Oranjestad,
Aruba*

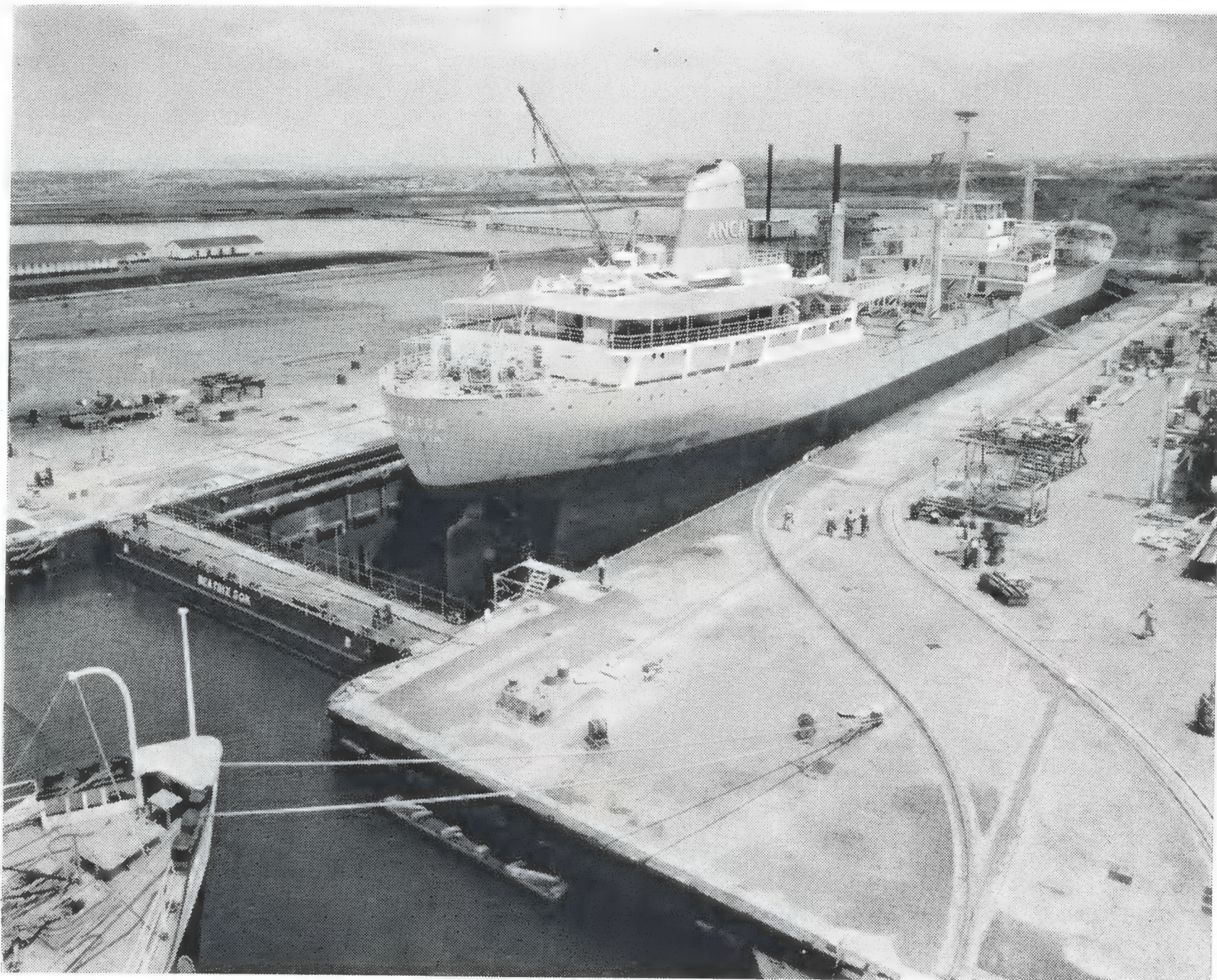


fine natural harbor (with direct access to the sea) made up of the St. Anna Bay and the Schottegat inner harbor, forms an attraction for the visiting tourist.

The refinery of the Shell Curaçao is located on the Schottegat. Other important ports of Curaçao are Caracas Bay and Bullenbay where the Shell Curaçao has bunkering facilities for very large tankers and tourist ships.

The most important ports in Aruba are Oranjestad and San Nicolas. San Nicolas serves the Lago refinery.

Kralendijk is the customs port of Bonaire.



Dry-docks in Curaçao can accomodate the largest ships

Year	Number of ships entering		Tonnage (in million of tons)	
	Curaçao	Aruba	Curaçao	Aruba
1950	8,282 (tankers: 5,688)	6,176 (tankers: 5,345)	39.2	33.7
1951	9,219 („ 6,312)	6,312 („ 5,449)	46.2	35.8
1952	9,762 („ 6,885)	6,739 („ 5,926)	49.9	35.7
1953	8,296 („ 5,450)	5,327 („ 4,521)	47.1	31.2
1954	7,616 („ 4,807)	4,500 („ 3,710)	52.29	33.4
1955	7,196 („ 4,317)	4,511 („ 3,687)	52.2	40.5
1956	7,580 („ 4,368)	4,347 („ 3,502)	53.3	39.9
1957	7,580 („ 4,506)	3,787 („ 2,935)	54.6	34.5
1958	7,180 („ 3,849)	3,368 („ 2,401)	54.1	33.1
1959	7,538 („ 3,769)	3,177 („ 2,111)	55.0	35.7



A daily sight: many ships of various sizes, waiting to enter the harbor of Willemstad, Curaçao

St. Martin has the best anchorage facilities of the three Windward Islands.

As no import duties or exercise taxes are levied on these islands, there are no custom formalities to fulfil at any time.

Curaçao and Aruba have free-trade zones. Both islands have several private storage warehouses and several government bonded warehouses. In 1954 the new storage warehouses at the new \$ 6,000,000 government-owned harbour at Curaçao were finished. Among the many shipping lines that call at Netherlands Antillian ports are the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., Grace Line Inc., Alcoa Steamship Co., Inc. Mississippi Ship Co. (Delta Line), Harrison Line and the Moore Mac Cormick Line.

AVIATION

The Royal Dutch Airlines (K.L.M.), the world's oldest commercial airline company, has its operations center in the Caribbean area in Curaçao. The K.L.M. maintains regular services to the United States, Europe, Venezuela, Surinam and other countries in Central and South America. Other airlines linking the Netherlands Antilles with foreign countries are the Pan-American, the Linea Aeropostal Venezolana, the RAS (a Columbian line), Air France (from Puerto Rico to St. Martin), the Trans Caribbean Airways (from Puerto Rico to Aruba).

Interisland air connection is maintained by the K.L.M. There are several daily flights from Curaçao to Aruba v.v., one daily flight to Bonaire and a twice-weekly service to St. Martin.

The airports in Curaçao (Dr. Albert Plesman Airport) and Aruba (Beatrix Airport) are among the best in this part of the world. There is also an airport in Bonaire (Flamingo Airport) and one in St. Martin (Juliana Airport). St. Eustatius has an auxiliary runway, suitable for small planes.

Along side the new "Rijkseenheidboulevard" in Curaçao several new industries have been established. One of these is the beerfactory in the middle of this picture



Many facilities are offered to the international airway system. The Dr. Albert Plesman Airport is being prepared for the reception of jet-aircraft.

POWER SUPPLY

Most of the electric power in Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire is supplied by a privately owned power company. In addition, both refineries have their powerplants, which supply the needs of the refineries and the company-owned residential areas. In 1959 the Overseas Gas and Electric Company Inc. produced in Curaçao about 70 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. In Aruba the new waterplant produced 27 million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

GAS

Gas is produced by the Shell Curaçao and supplied by the Overseas Gas and Electric Company Inc. under the trade name of "Shellane" on all inlands except Aruba, where the gas is produced by the Lago and supplied by the Aruba Gas Company

PLANS FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As has been pointed out already the Netherlands Antilles are completely dependent upon a single industry. This dependence led the Central Government as well as the Island-governments of Curaçao and Aruba to develop plans for the creation of additional sources of prosperity. For this purpose the Central Government made the "tax climate" in the Netherlands Antilles one of the mildest ones in the world. But also the social, economic and political factors in this country are exceptionally favorable to the investment of foreign capital. These factors are:

- a. good labour relations (generally no working days are lost because of labour disputes);
- b. a stable political development based on the democratic principles according to which the country is governed;
- c. a sound economic and financial policy by the Central Government, its primary aim being the maintenance of employment at the highest

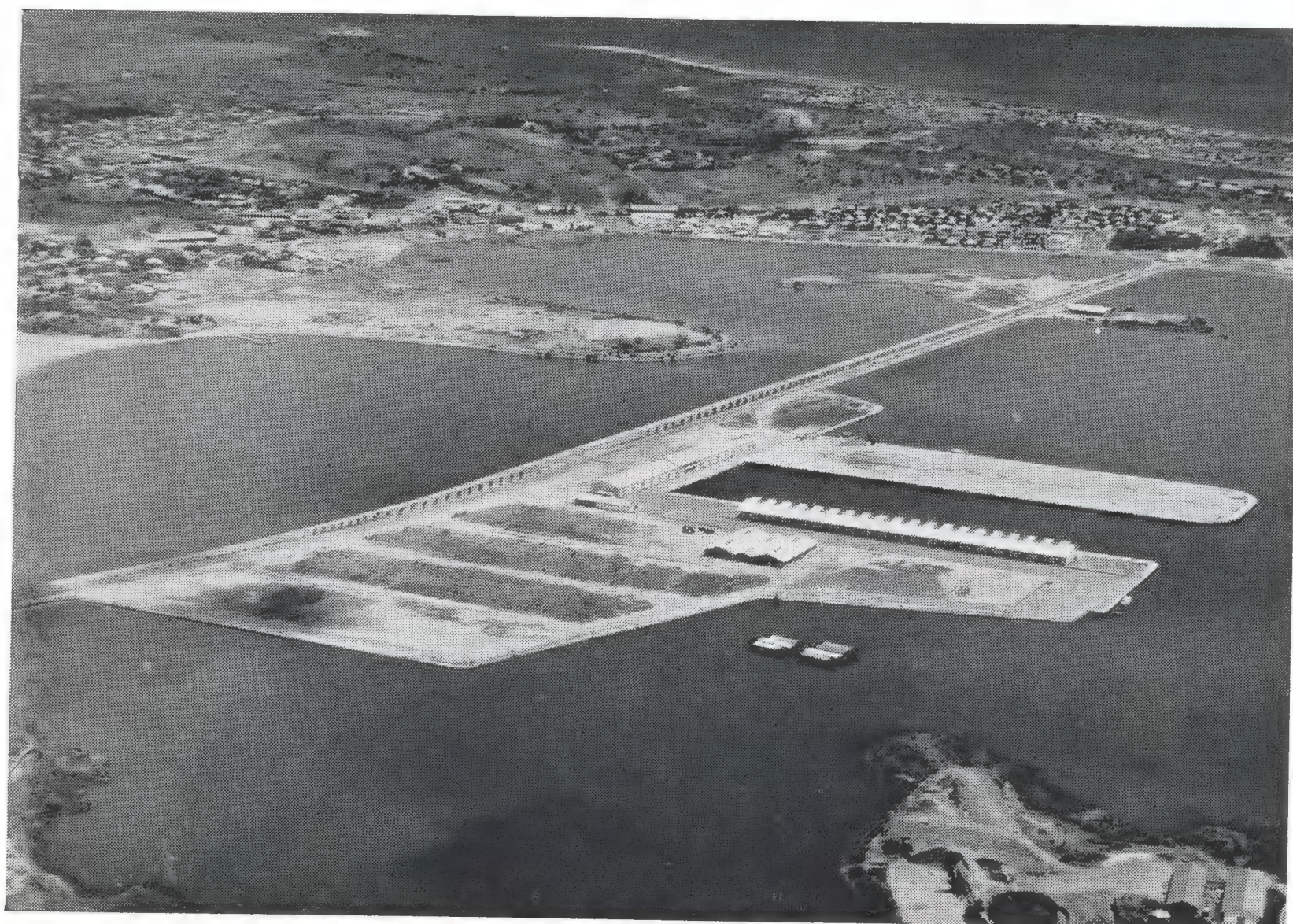
possible level. The Netherlands Antillian Government therefore accords the greatest possible freedom to business and industry, shuns any oppressive controls and recognizes the vital importance of free enterprise to the country's prosperity. Thoughts about nationalization or any other alienation of property rights are unknown in the Netherlands Antilles.

TAX HOLIDAY

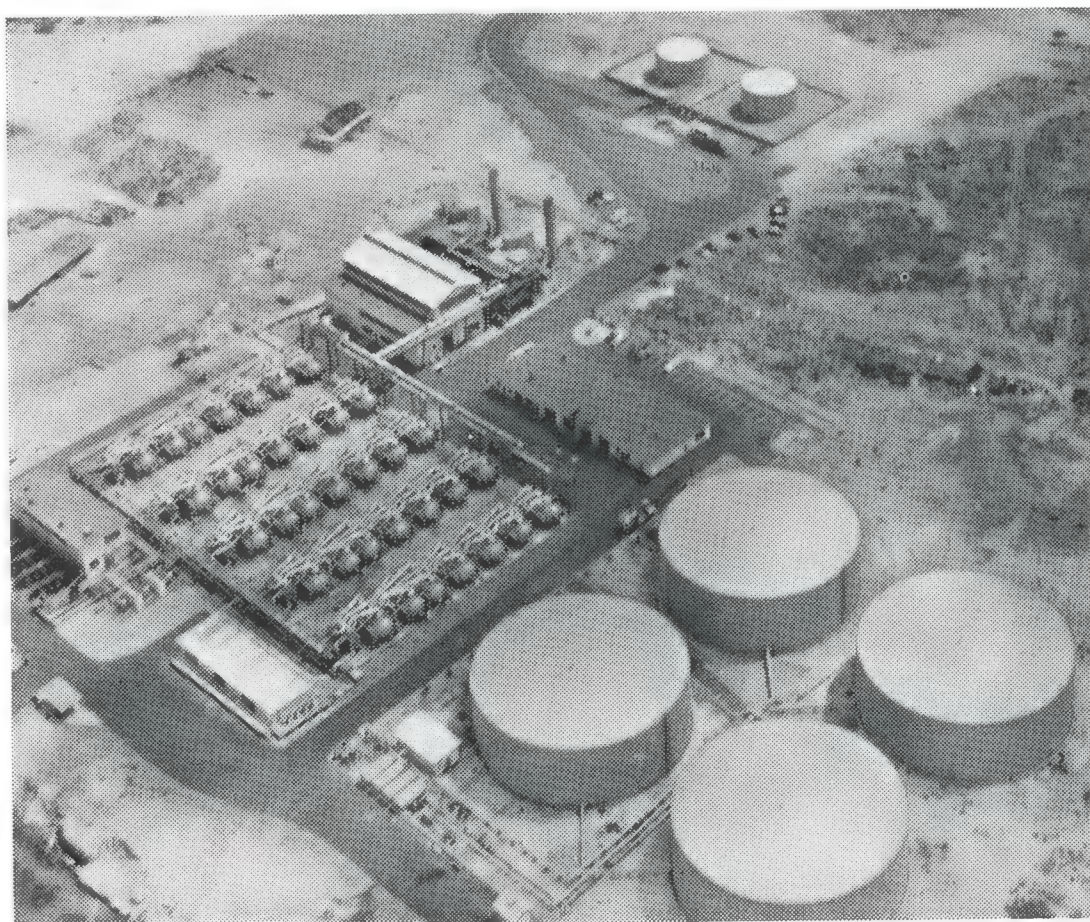
New industries, involving an investment of at least NA fl. 100,000,—i.e. enterprise whose purpose it is to conduct a (branch of) industry which did not exist in the Netherlands Antilles on January 1, 1948, are, for a period of ten to eleven years, exempt from paying the following taxes:

1. the import duties on materials and goods for the construction and the initial equipment of the premises;
2. the land tax on the premises of the enterprise;
3. the use (occupancy) tax on account of utilization of the premises of the enterprise;
4. the profit tax on profits obtained from the enterprise;

A bird's-eye view of the new port facilities with the Free Zones



The waterdistillery plant in Aruba serves various ends, such as the production of water, electricity and salt. Thanks to this plant many other industries now can be established on this island



5. the income tax on proceeds from an enterprise, and on proceeds from distribution of profits.

New hotels, involving an investment of at least NA fl. 500,000 also benefit from these tax exemptions.

Holding companies or investment companies, domiciled in the Netherlands Antilles, organized especially to hold securities, are subject to a tax equal to 1/10th of the normal profit tax.

As the normal tax rate varies from 24% to about 30%, the tax reduction results in an effective tax rate of only 2.4% to about 3%. More than 300 holding and investment companies have been incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles since 1953, when the rate was reduced.

Now that the Income Tax Convention of 1948 between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is extended to the Netherlands Antilles, one of the consequences of this agreement, of interest to foreign investors in the Netherlands Antilles, is the reduction of the withholding tax on income from U.S. securities from 30% to 10%; interest on bonds is completely exempt from said tax.

More liberal tax laws are being prepared e.g. a law on foreign trade companies (companies trading exclusively or nearly exclusively with foreign countries).

ENCOURAGEMENT OF NEW INDUSTRIES

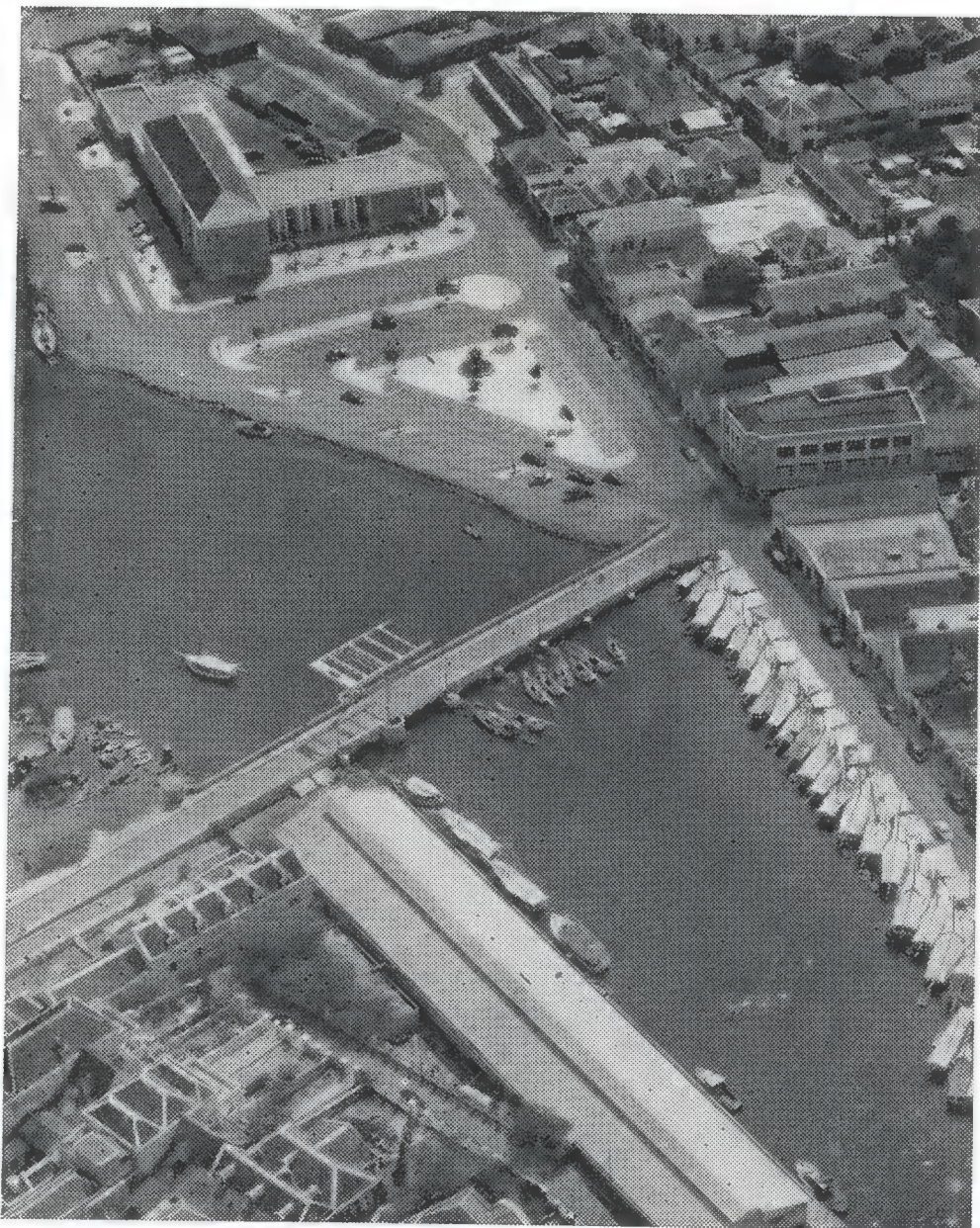
In order to encourage the establishment of new industries there exists a law which enables the Government to grant certain new industries, involving an investment of at least NA fl. 250,000,— (NA fl. 100,000,— in Bonaire and the Windward Islands), the right to be sole industry in their field for a maximum period varying from 5 to 25 years.

FREE ZONES

The "Free Zones Ordinance" of 1956 made it possible that in Curaçao and Aruba free zones could be established at the splendid modern ports of these islands. In these zones the assembling or manufacturing of goods for re-export can take place with a minimum of red tape and expense.

NEW WATER DISTILLATION PLANTS

As another part of the efforts to develop the economy of this country



*A birds'-eye view of Willemstad.
In the centre of the picture
the Post-office building*

the Island governments of Aruba and Curaçao built new water plants. The Aruban project costs about NA fl. 20,000,000 (approx. US \$ 10,000,000) and the one of Curaçao about NA fl. 12,500,000 (approx. US \$ 6,250,000). The price of water has been reduced considerably while the produced electricity is sold to the private electricity companies. The Aruban project also includes the production of chemicals, will be sold to a Chemical Company to be established in Aruba.

For the financing of these and other projects the Central Government contracted short-termed loans up to an amount of US \$ 10,000,000 guaranteed by the Netherlands Government. After two years the short-termed loans were converted into long-termed loans. Aruba and Curaçao were able to contract loans with the Central Government amounting to US \$ 4,000,000 for each under the same conditions as the Central Government received the money. Part of the interest to be paid will be granted by the Netherlands as a token of assistance in the economic development of these islands.

OTHER PROJECTS

Both islands have also projects for the building of low-cost workmen houses, expansion of the airports, while Aruba has recently constructed a hydroponics farm.

ECONOMIC AID FOR THE SMALLER ISLANDS

The Central Government has also worked out plans for the economic development of Bonaire and the Windward Islands. Until now these islands have not had significant sources of revenue. Annually the Central Government is supporting these islands with about NA fl. 2,300,000 (approx. US \$ 1,150,000). The economic development program includes the development of the tourist industry (the construction of hotels, new water- and power plants, etc.) the improvement of agriculture, cattle-breeding and fishing, and the raising of educational standards and the improvement of public welfare. The program will be carried out with technical and financial assistance of the Netherlands Government.

Finance

CURRENCY

The monetary unit of the Netherlands Antilles is the "guilder" (guilder or florin) equivalent to 100 cents. The official rate of exchange is: US \$ bills (greenbacks) and Travelers Checks: NA fl.1.865 per US \$; US bankers' drafts NA fl. 1.885 per US \$.

The Netherlands Antilles florin, usually abbreviated as "NA fl." is US \$ 0.5305. The paper currency consists of notes of the following denominations: fl. 2.50, 5.—, 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, and 500 guilders. Coins are minted in the following denominations: silver coins of 10 and 25 cents, 1 guilder and 2¹/₂ guilders, square nickels (5c) and copper coins of 1 and 2¹/₂ cents.

It may be mentioned that the Netherlands Antillian guilder (equivalent to about 2 Dutch guilders) is covered for more than 100 percent by gold and foreign exchange, convertible in gold.

The revenue and expenditure were:

(1 = 1 million Antill. guilders)	REVENUE				EXPENDITURE			
	1957*)	1958*)	1959*)	1960*)	1957*)	1958*)	1959*)	1960
Central Budget	50.3	67.8	63.5	71.3	50.1	67.5	63.5	71.1
Budget of Curaçao	45.8	42.6	41.9	39.2	45.8	43.9	41.9	39.1
Budget of Aruba	22.1	23.2	23.4	23.2	22.1	23.3	22.5	22.2

BANKING

The Bank of the Netherlands Antilles (formerly Curaçao Bank) is a government institution and has the sole right of issuing bank-notes. It is also authorized to carry on the usual banking operations. The note-circulation on the 1st of January 1960 amounted to 46,994, 545 Antillian guilders. The capital of the Netherlands Antilles Bank amounts to 450,000 Antillian guilders.

There are eight private banks in Curaçao and Aruba, six of which are commercial banks. The other two are a Savings and Loan Bank and

a Mortgage Bank. The Government owns a Construction Credit Bank. The purpose of this Bank is to make loans to those who wish to build or repair their own house but lack the available capital.

POSTAL SERVICE

For the year 1959 the Government Post Office Savings Bank had deposits of NA fl. 5,359,000 and withdrawals of NA fl. 5,767,000.

There are 5 post offices in the Netherlands Antilles. The Head Office is established at Willemstad, Curaçao.

In the financial year 1959, the postal revenues amounted to NA fl. 2,332,000 and the expenditure to NA fl. 1,405,125. Most letter mail is carried by air at normal postage rates.



*The "Breedestraat" in the
"Pundawijk" at Willemstad*

Social welfare, labour and public health

There are several social acts in the Netherlands Antilles which provide social security for all labourers. The most important ones are:

ACCIDENTS INSURANCE ACT OF 1936

All employees have to be insured by their employers against accidents. The premium, which is fully paid by the employer, is determined by the basis of the risk involved. Benefits are paid in case of temporary or permanent disability. In fatal cases allowances are paid to the dependants. This act also provides for free medical and hospital treatment.

SICKNESS INSURANCE ACT OF 1936

All employees with an income of less than N.A. fl. 20.— a day are insured against sickness. The premium, which is fully paid by the employer, is fixed yearly by the Government. In case of sickness the employee is entitled to 70 % of his normal wages for a maximum period of one year. In case of hospital treatment the percentage of the wages paid out to him is 50 %.

LABOUR ACT OF 1952

This act regulates the conditions of employment and working hours. Normal working hours are fixed at 8 a day and 45 a week. In some cases working for a maximum of 8½ hours a day and 48 hours a week is allowed. Child labour, night-work, and work of a dangerous nature by women and young people is generally prohibited. Rates have been fixed for overtime pay.

VACATION ACT OF 1949

Every employee is entitled to an annual vacation of two weeks with pay.

OLD AGE INSURANCE ACT OF 1960

On the first of September 1960 the Old Age Insurance Act of 1960 was

*A daily sight: government-lottery tickets
being sold. Half of the expenses of the
Old-Age Pension is covered by a special tax
on these tickets*



passed, providing for compulsory old age insurance for all residents of the Netherlands Antilles from the age of 15 to the age of 64. The pensions become effective when the insured reach the age of 65, and amount to NA fl. 95,— a month for married couples, and NA fl. 55,— a month for unmarried men and women.

Those, who on September 1st 1960 had already reached the age of 65, and met certain legal requirements, were immediately eligible to receive the full amount.

The premium amounts to $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the personal income of the insured, up to a maximum of $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of NA fl. 6000,— a year.

The wage earner is held responsible for $1\frac{1}{2}\%$, his employer paying the balance of 2% .

OLD AGE BENEFITS ACT OF 1960

This act deals exclusively with those 60 to 64 years of age, and provides for benefits, which are determined by the income of the beneficiary.

The maximum benefits in Curaçao and Aruba amount to NA fl. 84,— a month for married couples, and NA fl. 53,— a month for unmarried men and women. In Bonaire and the Windward Islands the top figures are NA fl. 69,— and NA fl. 42,— a month respectively.

To arrive at the actual benefits in each case, one half of the amount of the beneficiary's personal income is deducted from the legal maximum benefits.

The benefits are paid for by a special tax on tickets of the Government lottery.

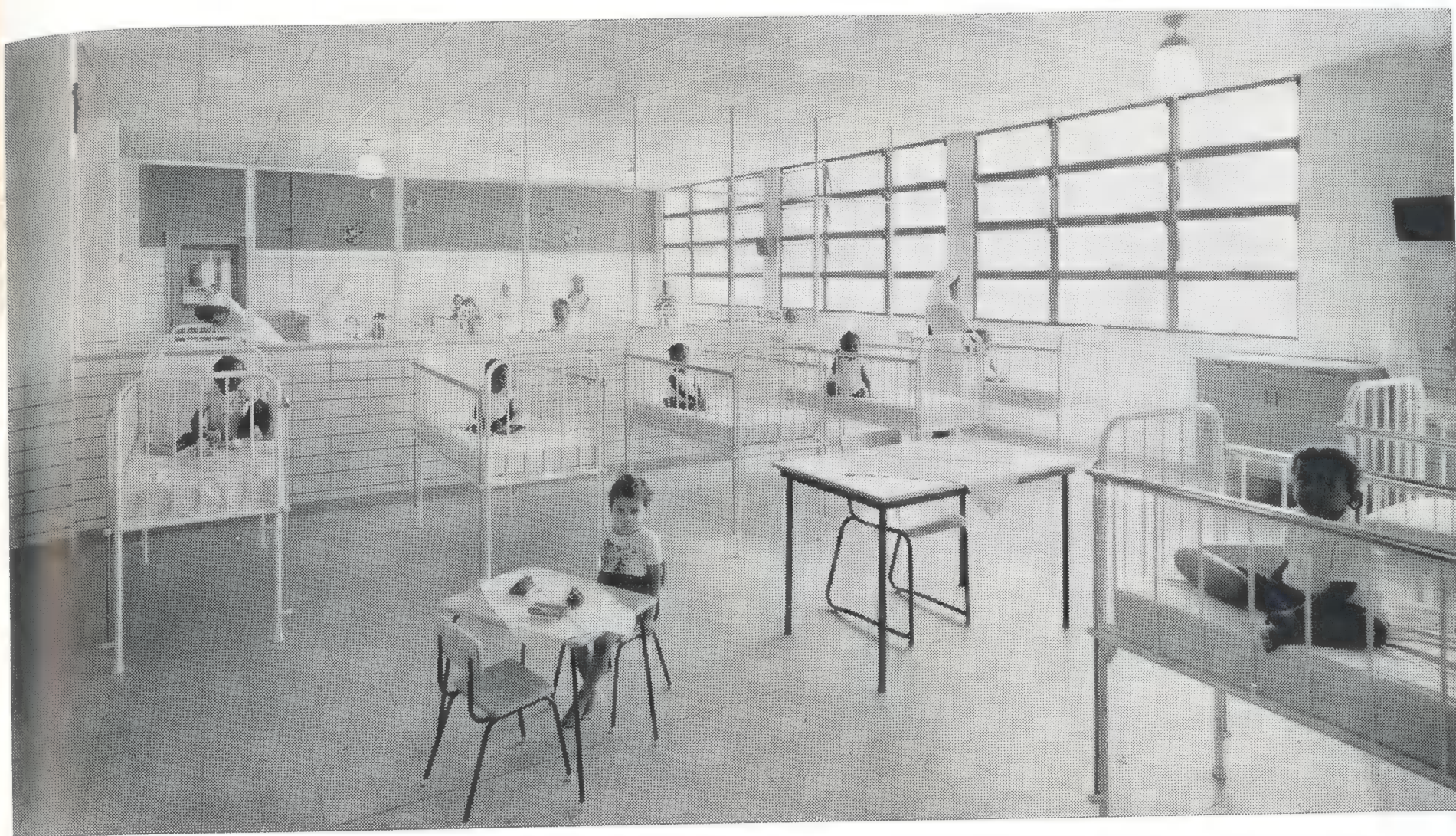
WAGES

In the Minimum Wage Act of 1946 minimum wages were fixed for employees working in shops and stores. Wages were tied to the cost of living index.

In the oil industry wages vary from NA. fl. 1.35 an hour to NA. fl. 1.62 an hour for unskilled labour. For skilled labourers wages range from NA. fl. 1.49 an hour to NA. fl. 3.25 an hour. Other employers generally follow the pattern set by the oil companies.

Bird's-eye view of one of the low-income housing projects undertaken by the government





A newly built children' clinic at the St. Elisabeth Hospital

Aruba and Curaçao for inhabitants in the low income brackets. Attractive developments have arisen, which include modern schools, churches, shops, recreation grounds, etc. The improvement of public housing remains a constant goal of the local governments.

LABOR RELATIONS

An important segment of the labour force is organized in trade unions. The oldest single union is the government officials union. The largest federation is the "Federation of Curaçao Workers Trade Unions".

In general the relations between employers and workers are good. Strikes are rare, and can usually be avoided through the provisions of the Labor Disputes Act of 1946. This act can be invoked by either party, or by the government mediator ex-officio, in any dispute involving 25 or more workers. The recommendations of the mediator are not binding, though they carry considerable weight. In the event negotiations come to a deadlock, the Prime Minister is empowered to call for a cooling-off period, during which an agreement may be reached.



Children of different ages receive Free vaccination with Salk vaccin against poliomyclitis

LOW INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS

Since the end of World War II some 2100 houses have been built in In practice there has hardly ever been a loss of working days on account of labour disputes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The public health in the Netherlands Antilles must be considered excellent. First-class medical attention is the reason why the death rate has been so low in this country (4.8 per thousand).

Generally the Netherlands Antillian has a good physical condition which minimizes illness.

The Central Inspection of Public Health and the island-government public health departments are very active.

The Shell Curaçao N.V. and the LAGO have their own medical service including hospitals equipped with the most modern instruments. There are two other large hospitals in the Netherlands Antilles, one in Curaçao (the St. Elisabeth's Hospital) and one in Aruba (the San Pedro Hospital) both operated by the Roman Catholic Mission.

The island government of Curaçao has planned the building of a new government-owned hospital.

Each of the other islands has a small hospital.

The Central Government owns two laboratories that are fully up to date. Medical centers have risen in various parts of Aruba and Curaçao and provide the population with free medical care and advice.

There are various private organizations working in the field of public health with subsidies from the island governments.

Education, Cultural Activity and Religion

EDUCATION

Although there does not exist compulsory schooling in the Netherlands Antilles illiteracy is low. This is largely due to the excellent educational system.

The following statistics indicate how many teachers and pupils are involved in each branch of education (1958):

	Number	Teaching staff	Pupils
Kindergartens:			
Public (governmental)	17	53	1228
Private	51	187	6588
Elementary schools:			
Public (governmental)	23	222	6654
Private	94	931	33,792
Secondary schools: ¹⁾			
Public (governmental)	1	24	320
Private	2	59	583
Trade schools:			
Public	2	22	466
Private	1	20	485
Total	191	1518	50,116

¹⁾ Some of these schools have courses in pedagogy for students who choose a teaching career.

There are courses in machine-typing and shorthand-writing and for the training of government officials. The Netherlands Antillians have an aptitude for foreign languages, especially for English and Spanish, the study of which is taken very seriously even in the elementary schools. This widespread knowledge of foreign languages is certainly advantageously to the development of the tourist-industry in the Netherlands Antilles. Many a foreign visitor has been pleasantly surprised to find that many sales girls, taxidriviers and even workmen not only understand his language, but often can speak it quite well. Total expenditure



To impart a better comprehension of the charter to the youth, each year on 15th December (Kingdom day) a message of the Minister-President is read in all schools.

on education in the Netherlands Antilles amounts to about 50% of the budget of Curaçao and about 30% of that of Aruba.

Most schools in the Netherlands Antilles are private, the majority of which is run by the Roman Catholic Mission. There are also Protes-

Peter Stuyvesant College, one of the high-schools in Curaçao. In front the statue of Peter Stuyvesant





Yearly many young students leave for Holland with scholarships from the Central and Local Governments. Chartered airplanes bring them to their destination

tant schools. The cost of public and private schools is shouldered by the island-territory where the schools are established.

Every year scholarships are granted by the Central and Local Governments to Antillian boys and girls to continue their study in the Netherlands. Hundreds of Netherlands Antillians are studying at Universities in the Netherlands or are attending training courses in teaching, midwifery, nursing, social work, accounting and other professions.

CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Curaçao has a Historical *Museum* housed in a building that is a typical example of old Dutch architecture. Several exhibitions of paintings of Antillian and foreign artists have been held during the past years and it has been gratifying to find the local interest in the work of this Museum increasing.

The museum is subsidized by the government.

Curaçao and Aruba have their *Philharmonic orchestras* and every year a number of concerts are given. Foreign artists appear frequently in the Netherlands Antilles.

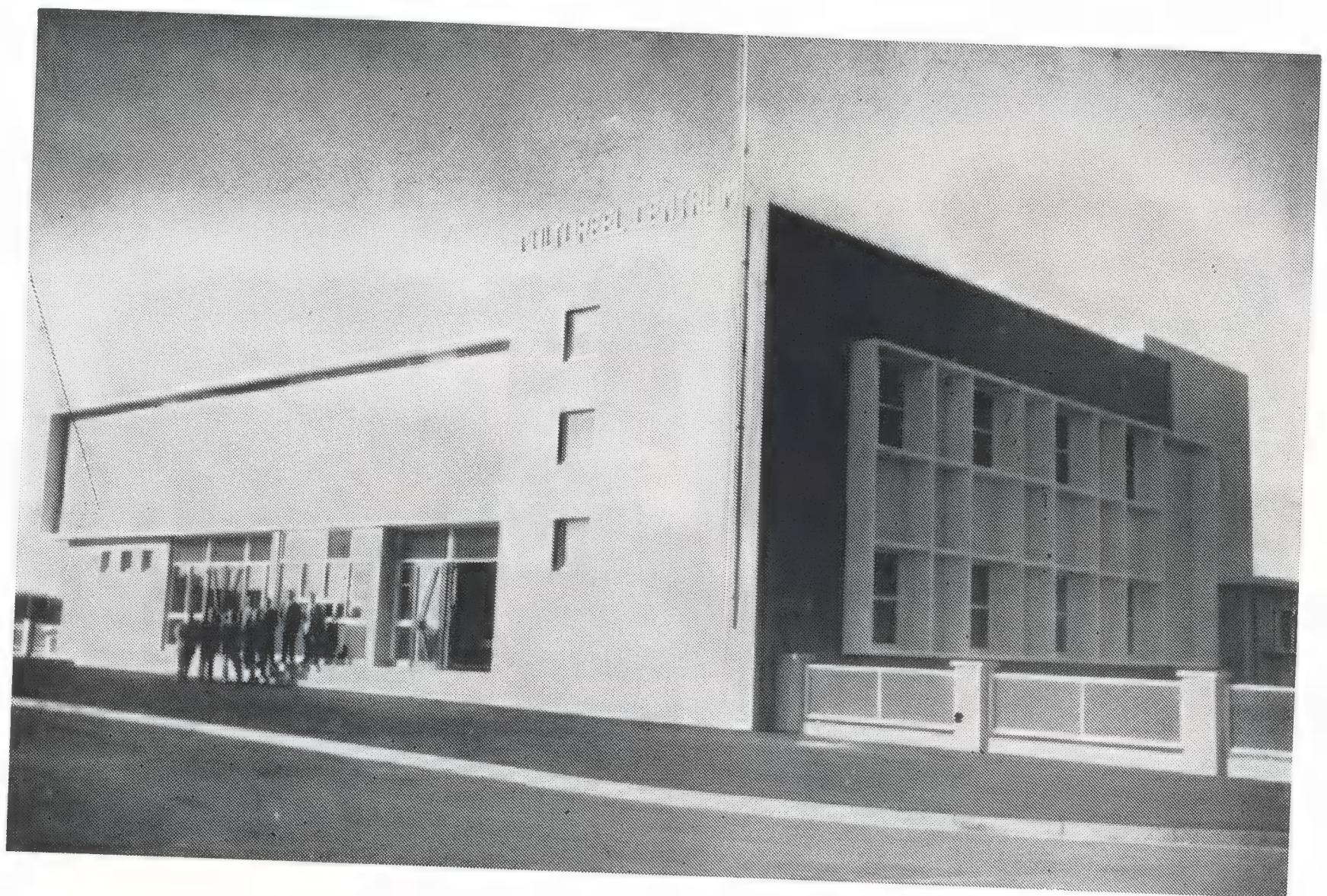


The Curaçao Philharmonic Orchestra in a choral concert

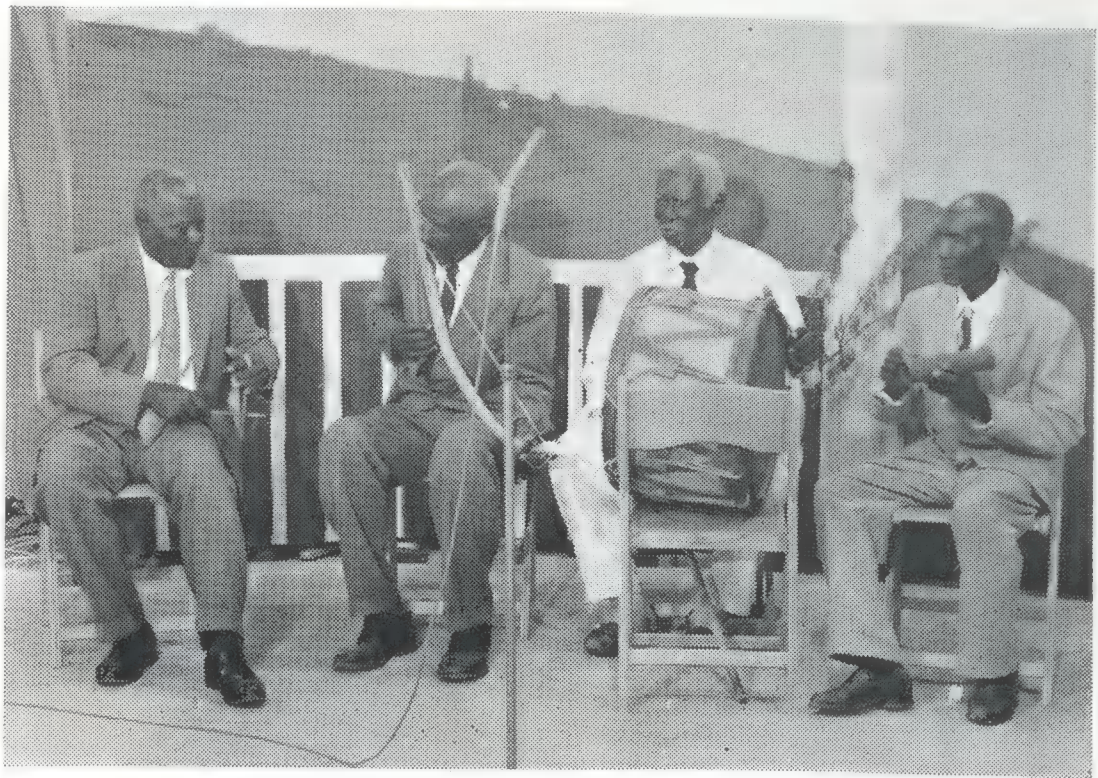
In Aruba and Curaçao there are public schools of music, financially supported by the island governments. There are several amateur theatrical groups. The modern Art Theatre in Aruba has proved to be a great asset to the cultural life of that island.

Cultural activity in the Netherlands Antilles is stimulated by various

The cultural centre in Oranjestad, Aruba

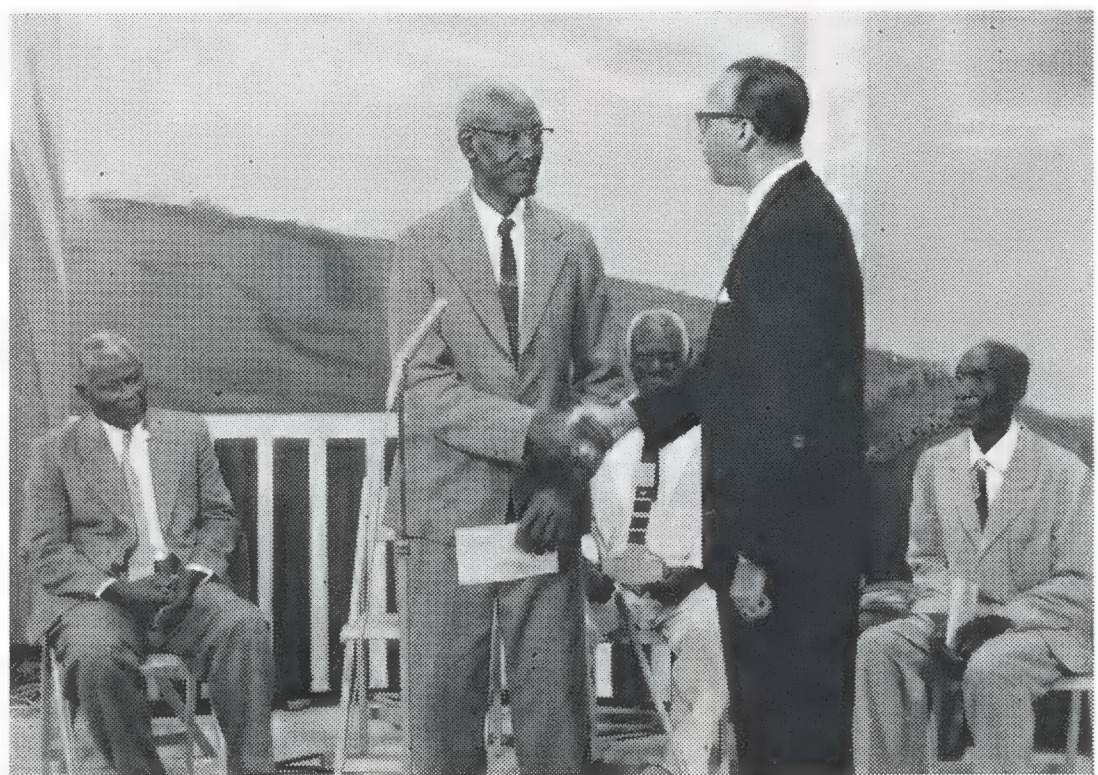


*An ensemble of old native
instruments*

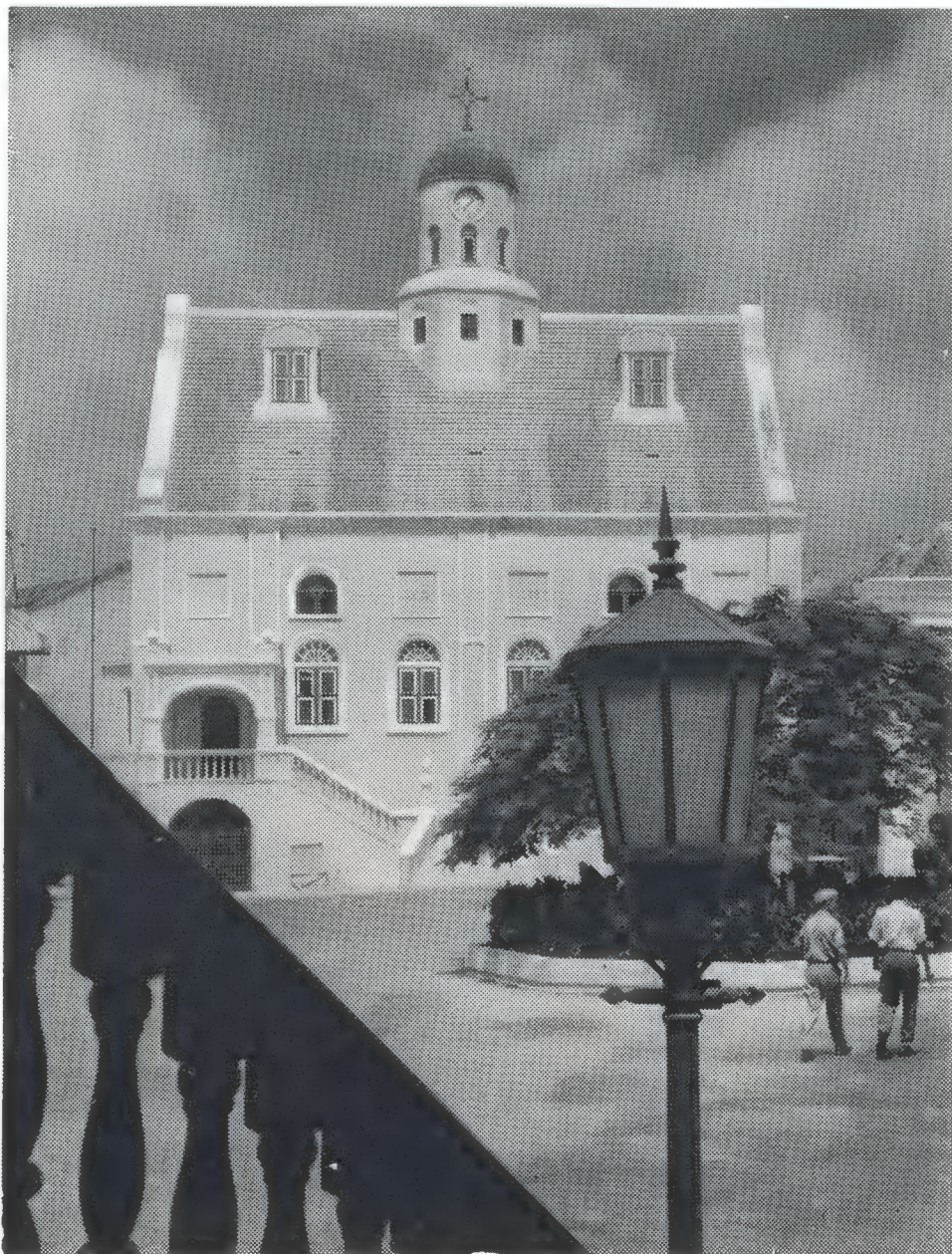


cultural societies among which the Cultural Centrum of Aruba, the Cultural Centrum of Curaçao and the Curaçao Art Circle take an important place.

In several ways the Central and island governments have supported the further development of the cultural life in Netherlands Antilles. A number of cultural societies has been granted a yearly subsidy. Curaçao and Aruba have well-equipped government libraries. In Curaçao there is also a library of the Cultural Centre of Curaçao which serves as a reference library in the field of arts and sciences.



*Minister Kroon hands the
musicians a gift*



*The old Protestant Church in Fort
Amsterdam at Willemstad*

RELIGION

Of the inhabitants professing a religion the majority are Roman Catholic. The clerical head of the Roman Catholic Community is the Bishop. The Protestant Congregations in the Netherlands Antilles are:

1. The United Protestant Congregation;
2. The Protestant Congregation;
3. The Reformed Protestant Congregation;
4. The Evangelical Congregation;
5. The Methodist Congregation;
6. The Anglican Congregation;
7. The Apostolic Faith Society;

There are two Jewish Congregations in the Netherlands Antilles. The Netherlands Portuguese Jewish Congregation and the Netherlands Reformed Jewish congregation.

A Roman Catholic Church at Willemstad



In Curaçao the Salvation Army operates a Seamen's Home. There is also a Norwegian Seamen's Church and a Catholic Seamen's Home in Curaçao.

There is full religious liberty, and the salaries of the clergymen of all denominations are drawn from the national treasury. The Government does not interfere in any way with the internal affairs of either Catholic or Protestant churches.



A Jewish Synagogue

Transportation and communications

TRANSPORTATION

All the islands have good road-systems. The total length of the highways of the islands is in km: Curaçao 445, Aruba 240 (excl. the roads on the territory of the Lago Oil & Transport Co. Ltd.), Bonaire 60, St. Martin 27, Saba 10, St. Eustatius 6.

AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC

Curaçao has about 13,781 automobiles and trucks; Aruba about 7429; Bonaire 300. The Windward Islands have proportionally smaller numbers. There are no railways on the islands.

COMMUNICATION

The internal telecommunications-system is owned and operated by the Government Radio and Telegraph Service, which also conducts the overseas radio-telegraph and radio-telephone services.

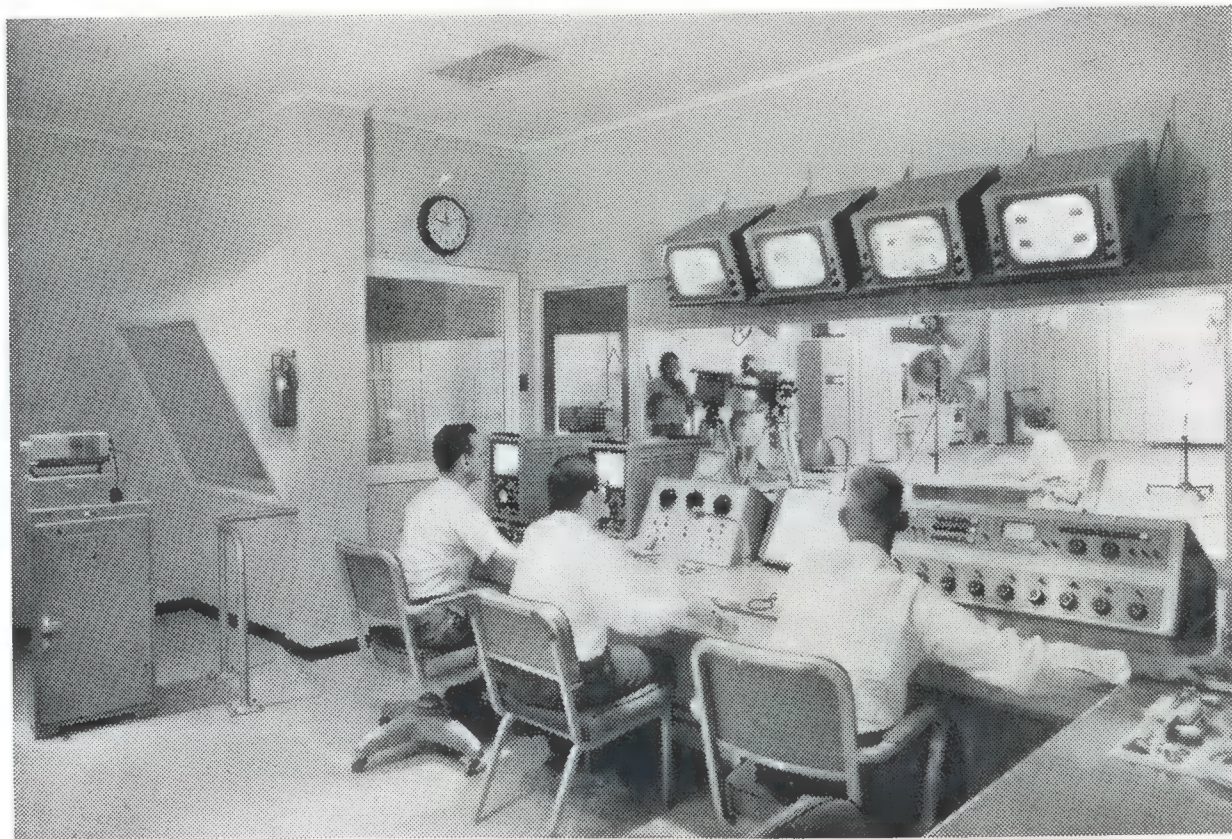
Overseas radio-telegraph services are also maintained by the All American Cables & Radio Inc.

In the financial year of 1959 the revenues of the Government Radio

An example of a modern highway in the Netherlands Antilles



*Curaçao has a
Television-station called
"Telecuraçao"*



and Telegraph Service amounted to NA fl. 1,968,056,42 and the expenditure to NA fl. 2,046,250,29.

Each island-territory has its own government-operated Telephone Service. Only Curaçao and Aruba have an automatic dial telephone system. The number of telephones in Curaçao in January 1960 was 5700 and in Aruba 2216. In addition the two oilcompanies have their own private exchange, hooked up to the public exchange.

In many districts there are street-telephones for free use by the public. Curaçao has four broadcasting stations and Aruba three. They are all long wave stations. The CUROM (The Curaçao Broadcasting System) is the only one subsidized by the Central Government. On July 31st a television station was opened called "Telecuraçao". Plans for a t.v.-station in Aruba are in an advanced stage.

Four daily papers are printed in Curaçao with an estimated total circulation of 17,000 readers, among which also readers on Aruba and the other islands. Two daily papers are printed in Aruba with an estimated total circulation of 3,000.

Four of the 6 daily papers are printed in Dutch, two in Spanish and Papiamentu. There are some weekly papers printed in Dutch, Papiamentu and English.

Hotels

The following is a survey of the best hotels in the Netherlands Antilles. The hotel rates quoted per person per day refer to rooms with private bath. Double occupancy rates are usually lower. The following abbreviations are used: A.P.: American Plan (three meals included); C.P.: Continental Plan (room with complete breakfast); E.P.: European Plan (room only); M.A.P.: modified American or Caribbean Plan (room, breakfast, dinner). Aircon: Airconditioned rooms available at slightly higher rate.

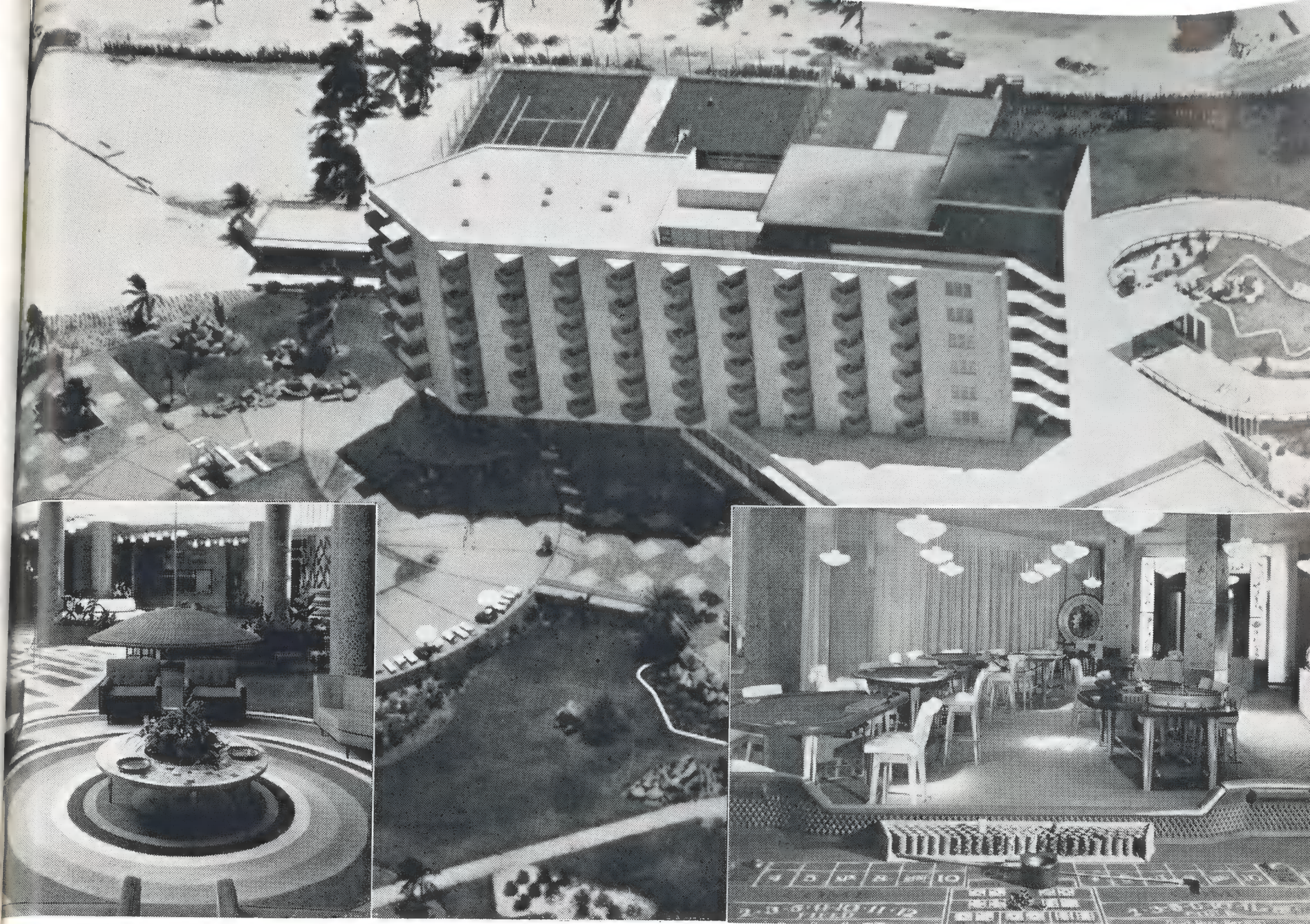
CURACAO

Hotel El Curaçao Intercontinental: Waterfort, facing the Caribbean Sea, swimming pool, 124 rooms. Only E.P.: \$ 14.00–\$ 20.00 (season price). Completely airconditioned.

Hotel Americano: Brionplein, facing harbor and pontoon bridge, 45 rooms. A.P. \$ 12.00–\$ 13.50.

Hotel Curaçao International in the historical Waterfort at Willemstad gives a splendid view of the Caribbean Sea





The Aruba-Caribbean Hotel is situated in such a way that all the rooms have a view of the splendid white beach of Aruba. The elegance of the main-lobby and the casino of this hotel are already famous

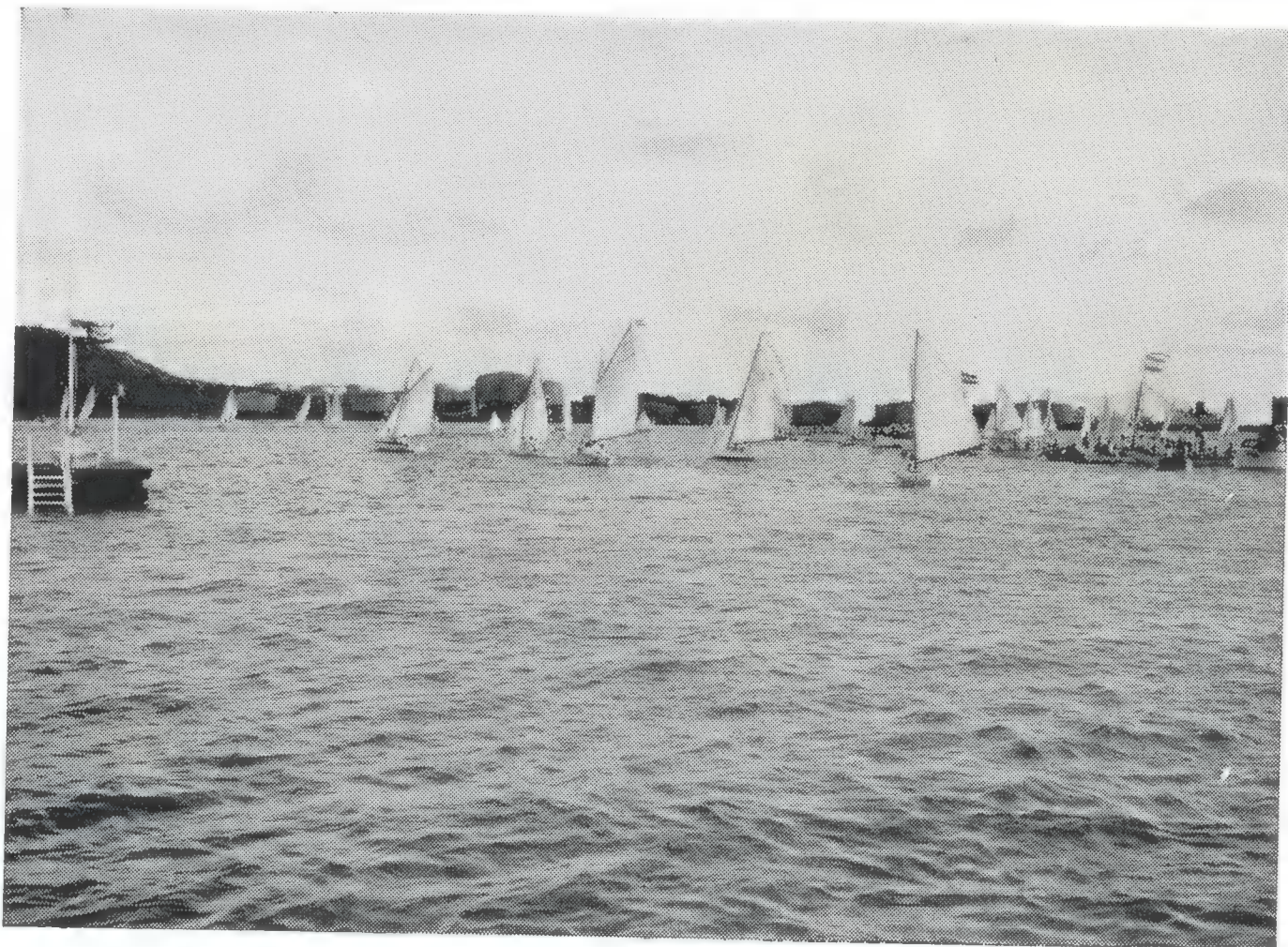
Hotel Avila: Penstraat, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile East of the down town area. Salt water swimming pool, 45 rooms. A.P. \$ 14.00–\$ 19.00; C.P.: \$ 10.00–\$ 15.00. Aircon.

Hotel Bellevue: Parera, overlooking Schottegat Bay, tennis court, 42 rooms and suites. A.P.: \$ 8.00–\$ 12.00; C.P.: \$ 5.50–\$ 8.25.

Park Hotel: Frederikstraat, centre of Otrabanda section (West), 45 rooms. A.P.: \$ 6.00; C.P.: \$ 5.50. Aircon.

Piscadera Bay Club: At Piscadera Bay and beach: $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of city, 64 rooms and suites. C.P. \$ 11.00–\$ 12.50. Aircon. A.P. \$ 18.00–\$ 19.50.

K.L.M. Hotel Hato: Near airport primarily for airline passengers, 20 rooms. C.P. \$ 8.00.



*Sailing in the
Netherlands
Antilles*

Hotel San Marco: Columbusstraat, in center of business district, 25 rooms. A.P.: \$ 11.75–\$ 14.25; E.P.: \$ 6.50–\$ 8.50.

ARUBA

Aruba Caribbean Hotel: On Palm Beach with swimming pool and casino. 140 rooms and 6 suites entirely airconditioned. M.A.P.: \$ 31.00–\$ 35.00.

Strand Hotel: Overlooking Caribbean, halfway airport and Oranjestad, 25 rooms. C.P.: \$ 9.50. Aircon.

Scala: In centre of city (Oranjestad) 24 rooms. A.P.: \$ 13.50; C.P.: \$ 9.50. Aircon.

Hotel Astoria: In centre of San Nicolas. 10 rooms. C.P.: \$ 9.33; E.P.: \$ 6.75.

Hotel Basi Rutti: Along Palm Beach. 15 rooms. A.P.: \$ 20.00–\$ 25.00; C.P.: \$ 12.00–\$ 18.00.

Hotel Embajador: 11 rooms. C.P.: \$ 8.— \$ 11.—.

BONAIRE

Hotel Flamingo Beach Club: Halfway between Kralendijk and airport, overlooking the Kralendijk Bay. A.P.: \$ 15.00.

*Little Bay Hotel in St. Martin
(Netherlands Antillian part)*



ST. MARTIN

Hotel Little Bay: Situated on Little Bay, 44 rooms. A.P.: \$ 26.00.

Pasangrahan: The former Government Guesthouse, 12 rooms. A.P.:
\$ 14.00–\$ 16.00.

Lido Guesthouse: Facing Great Bay, 5 rooms. A.P.: \$ 12.00–\$ 14.00.

SABA

Government Guesthouse in The Bottom. A.P.: \$ 6.25–\$ 8.00.

ST. EUSTATIUS

Government Guesthouse in Oranjestad. A.P.: \$ 6.25.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A. Transit Stay

Transit passengers, that is travelers who continue their trip with the same vessel or plane, or stay on the island for 24 hours or less, do not require any documents. The latter category, however, should have some proof of identity.

B. Temporary Stay

1. Tourists from the U.S.A. do not need a passport but may suffice with:



Flamingo Beach Club Bonaire

- a. A birth certificate or an affidavit of birth if born in the United States.
 - b. Naturalisation certificate if naturalised U.S. citizen.
 - c. A re-entry permit or a "non-quota" immigration visa if foreigner permanently residing in the United States, or an Alien Registration Card.
2. Tourists from other countries must have a valid passport and surrender two passport photos.
 3. All temporary visitors must be in possession of a vaccination certificate not older than three years and a through or return ticket to a destination outside the territory.

Information regarding matters of interest to foreign visitors may be obtained from the Tourist-Offices on the different islands or from the Netherlands West Indies Tourist Bureau, 475 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., U.S.A.



